

# **American Place Names**

**ALFRED H. HOLT**

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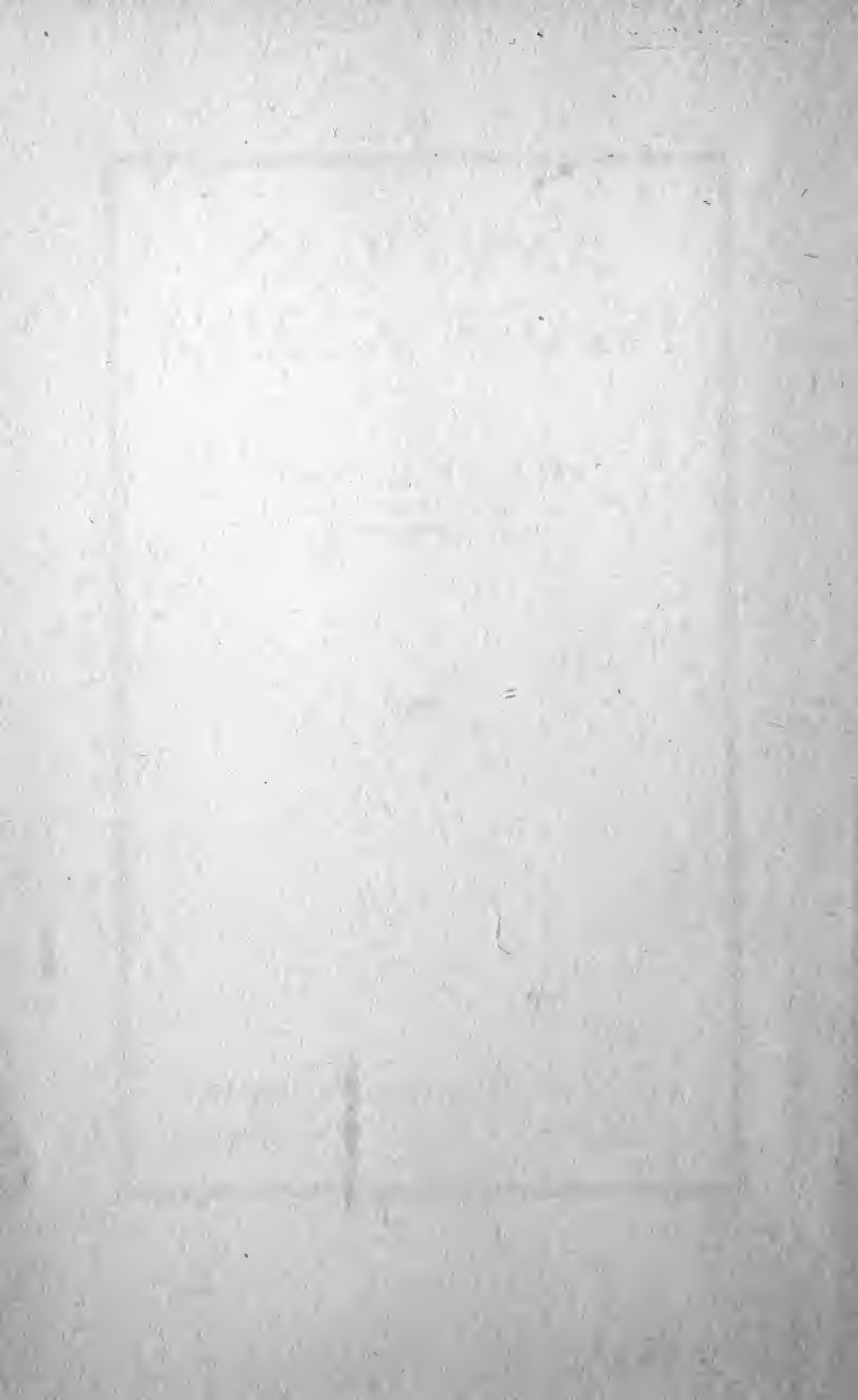
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## AMERICAN PLACE NAMES



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# AMERICAN PLACE NAMES

By  
ALFRED H. HOLT

*Author of "Phrase Origins,"  
"You Don't Say!"*



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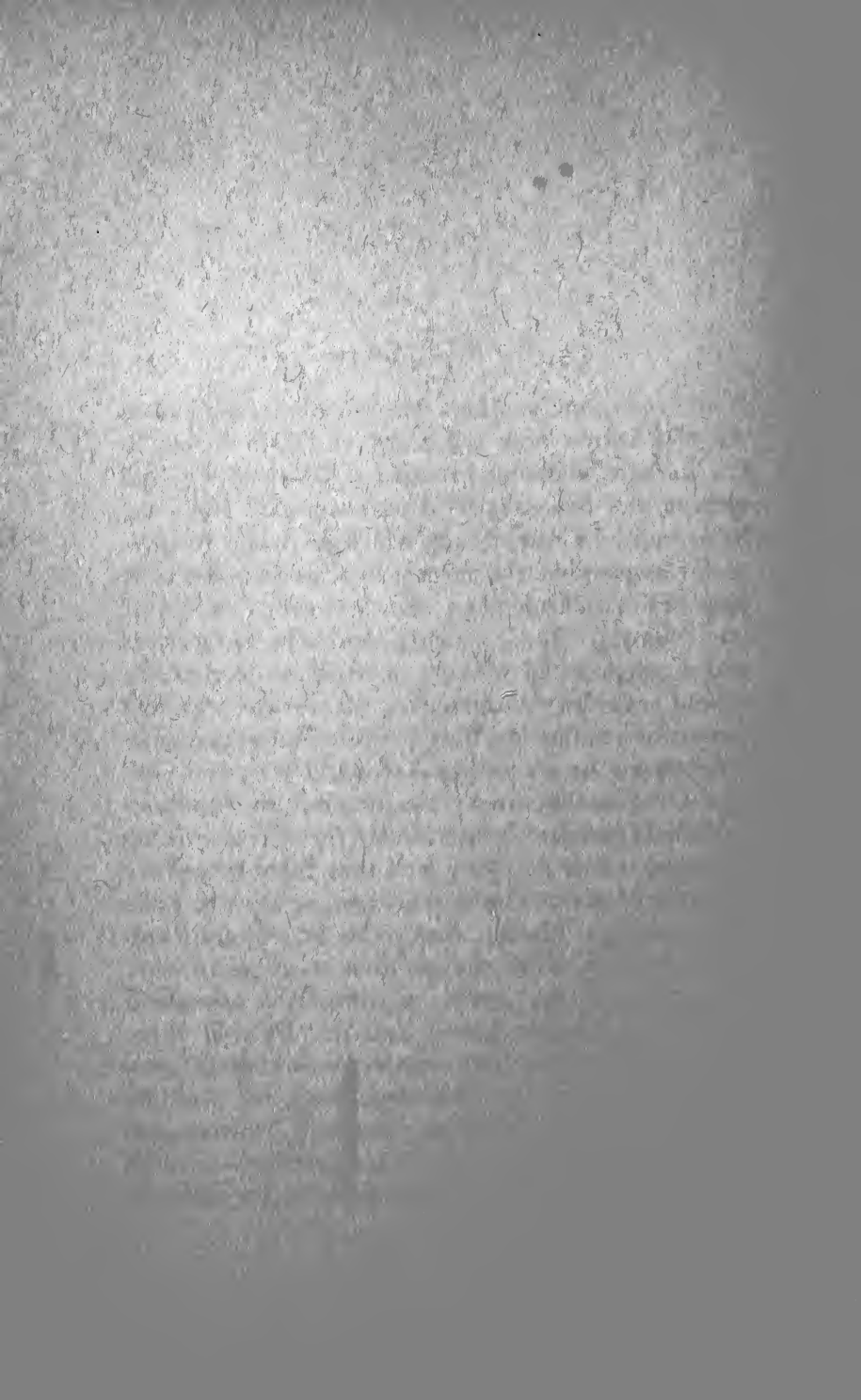
To  
MY WIFE

225741

Hatfield Estate

by

9/22/58



—PREFACE—

NOT EVERYBODY on Santa Monica Boulevard in Los Angeles knows how the folks on Main Street in Chickasha, Oklahoma, pronounce "Chickasha"—and vice versa. Several useful purposes can, I believe, be served by a compilation which professes to give, so far as possible, the current local pronunciation of disputed or difficult place names in every section of our country. Radio people, especially newscasters and announcers of winners in nation-wide contests, should never be without such a list, for the standard authorities cannot possibly provide up-to-the-minute information on places like Knippa, Texas, and Gervais, Oregon, that insist on leaping into the headlines with mass murders or spectacular forest fires; the unabridgers know perfectly well that their exhaustive research of ten or fifteen years ago, relative to Lake Tohopekaliga, Florida, may today be of purely academic interest, when the question arises as to what the natives of the region, in convention assembled around the cracker barrel, call it. Even if there were enormous and authoritative lists of current pronunciations, there would still be room for a mildly entertaining book in which one could browse—and almost nobody will browse in a gazetteer—until he suddenly bit off a sprig of poison ivy, in the shape of

a name he had been blissfully mutilating ever since he could read. It isn't the names like "Uwchland" and "Ydalpom" that are the most poisonous; it's the innocent-looking ones like "Mikado," Michigan, and "Pass Christian," Mississippi, that put strong men into padded cells.

In the second place, there are the serious students of the evolution of this American language, who can learn much about recessive accent, for instance, and about what happens to foreign names over a period of years. Again the railroad brakemen and train announcers could make profitable use of this book. This is just a pious wish. Lastly, if I may drape myself in the stars-and-stripes just before the curtain falls, we'll all be better Americans if we go to a little extra trouble and pay our neighbors in Saco or Joliet the delicate compliment of pronouncing properly the names of their home towns.

## REFERENCES

The books which I have used are listed in the Bibliography. But in almost every instance I have checked in one way or another the pronunciation given by the authorities. I make no pretence of having personally investigated, on the spot, every name listed here, though I have been in all forty-eight states. My 7600-mile Wild Name Hunt, last year, to the South and Southwest has been supplemented by thousands of return-post cards sent to librarians and superintendents of schools throughout the coun-

try. Through these "observers," I have endeavored to learn from each community (1) what the "better element," as represented, say, by the President of the Woman's Club, calls it; (2) what the average man does with it; and (3) what happens when the brakeman gets hold of it. The results have been educational, upsetting, and not seldom highly amusing. Other information of great value has been received from Mr. Leonard Thorp of Superior, Wisconsin, formerly of Ellensburg, Washington, and from Mr. C. K. Bolton of Shirley, Massachusetts.

Two constant companions, during the preparation of this material, have been the gazetteer in the back of the unabridged *Webster*, and the *United States Official Postal Guide*. I am also indebted more than a little to Doan's Liver and Kidney Pills, for the *Directory of the United States* which its advertising man left on my doorstep.

## DIACRITICAL MARKS

At this point, I should like to be able to report, "Ain't none," and move on to the next paragraph. However, it has been necessary to use accent marks, and a number of dotted *a*'s (*â*) to represent "uh"—and even, once or twice, a dotted *e* in "the," to suggest the similarly informal "thuh" (note, though, that when I have used "the" without any decoration over the *e*, that is a Machiavellian evasion of the issue, for it means that the *e*; as in the word "delay," is sometimes long and sometimes not so long). The

reason for this emphasis on the muteness of *a* is the well-grounded fear that when I say, for example, that "Prairie du Rocher" (Illinois) rhymes with "married a poacher," some of you may sound off with long *a* rather than the informal "uh."

Rather than depend on the casual reader to know that "ch" can be assumed to mean the voiceless affricate and not the "sh" sound, I have made extensive use of the somewhat undignified admonition to "sneeze the *ch*" as opposed to "hushing" it. Occasionally, I have tried to convey the same idea by throwing in a *t*: "tch."

Wherever feasible, accent is indicated by italics, as in my rhyme for "Penelope," "Then *shell* a pea." It will be noted that the mute *a* is here used to suggest the sound of the mute *o*; conversely, "o'" (short for *of*) may turn up, in these pages, as a symbol for the same sound. I have even, to the horror of some conscientious souls, refused to quibble over the great gaps that are alleged to exist between *Mary*, *merry*, and *marry*, or between *hairy* and *Harry*. For my purposes, if you wish to rhyme "Cairo" (Illinois) with "arrow," you'll be close enough to the actual pronunciation to get by. This is no book for purists.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Were I to list all who have been good enough to write me in detail about the wild names in their vicinity, this volume would resemble a telephone direc-

tory. I should however give particular mention to the following, in addition to those of whose help I have spoken above: Miss Myrtie J. Bolton, of Denton, Texas, Librarian Rhoda Marshall, of Los Angeles, Miss Mamie Meredith, of the University of Nebraska, Mr. G. W. Cottrell, Jr., of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Professor Fred A. Dudley, of Iowa State College, Professor R. M. Harper, of the University of Alabama, Editor J. N. Heiskell, of the *Arkansas Gazette*, Mr. P. L. G. Smith, of New Orleans, and Librarian Charles W. Spencer, of Colgate University. Many thanks!

ALFRED H. HOLT.

*Williamstown, Mass.*  
*September, 1938*





# A

**Abbeville.** (In five southern states.) Sounds almost like "Abbey-ville."

**Abeytas, N. Mex.** Just "abate us," if that makes any sense. Surely there is such a thing as *abating* a nuisance.

**Abilene.** "Abba-leen." In Texas, accent the "leen," in Kansas the "ab." But the Bible name is "Abba-lee'nee."

**Abingdon, Ill. and Md.** The accented *ab* rhymes with *blab, crab, drab, gab, nab, scab, stab*—will the Abingdon Rotary Clubs kindly suggest a more pleasant rhyme for it?

**Absarokee, Mont.** The residents accent the *sa* ("sah" or "saw") whereas Webster lists an *Absaroka* Range in Wyoming with the main accent on the *ro*.

**Absecon, N. J.** (Name of the island on which Atlantic City is located.) Rhymes with "Grab *me*, Don!"

**Accomac, Va.** Unlike *Potomac*, it accents the first syllable. Unlike *Mackinac* (q.v.), it sounds the final *c* in the normal way: "ack'o-mack."

**Acequia.** In Texas, this is "ah *sake* you." But Idaho follows the spelling more closely, getting "ah seek'we-a" (the vowel sounds of *obsequious*). It means *canal* in Spanish.

**Achille, Okla.** Turning its back on its French ancestry, this now rhymes with a dialect pronunciation of *naturally*: "natchily."

**Acomita, N. Mex.** Mexican influence still strong here: approximately, "acka-mee'ta."

**Agawam, Mass.** The *ag* (accented) should be as in *hag*, and the third syllable is "wawm."

**Agua Caliente.** "Ah'wa kahl-yen'tay" represents the California and Arizona version, and approaches the Mexican. The *g* doesn't rate much.

**Aguilar, Colo.** Rhymes with "soggy tar," apparently. But this is still suspiciously close to the Spanish; the Colorado town is due for further americanization.

**Ahtanum.** (Ridge, in the state of Washington.) As the indignant darky remarked when his son played truant, "Ah *tan* 'um."

**Ajlune, Wash.** Two syllables. Rhymes with "*Madge* Boone."

**Ajo, Ariz.** Not being far from Mexico, the place is pronounced "ah'ho." In Spain, the *j* would be guttural. It has, according to my little Spanish dictionary, three widely separated meanings, none

of them highly complimentary: "garlic; paint for women; a discreditable transaction."

**Akron, Ohio.** Why it is pronounced "ack'ron" is a mystery to me; but since they *will* have it that way, don't argue with them about it. Not even the long *a* of the *Akron's* successor, the *Macon*, shook the tradition.

**Alabama.** The accented *al* and *bam* are flat, as in "Al Smith"; "ah-la bah-ma" is abomination to the natives, according to Director W. L. Spencer of the State Department of Education.

**Alachua, Fla.** Illustrating the widespread tendency to make the final *a* of an Indian name long, this is "a-lotch'way," rhyming with "thè *Scotch* pay," for goodness' sake.

**Alameda, Calif.** The best usage, supported by the dictionary people, leans toward the Spanish, especially insisting on the "may" of the accented syllable. The other half of the population (and the waitress in Boulder City, Nev., as I happen to know) anglicize to "alla-meeda."

**Alamo.** A recent popular song had something about

When the moon sinks low  
On the Alamo

which indicates the first-syllable accent. The first syllable is either "ah" or "al"; the latter (making the name sound like the first three syllables of *ali-*

*mony*) is the usual pronunciation in both Texas and North Dakota.

Alamogordo, N. Mex. Even more than in *Alamo*, the second *a* is slighted. Just "al'mo gor'do."

Albia, Iowa. Starts with "Al" (flat), as in *album* and *Albion*.

Albion, N. Y. The accented *Al* is as in "Al Smith." Why Albany, N. Y., and Alburg, Vt., should be "awl" is not at the moment clear. (See ALTON.)

Albuquerque, N. Mex. "Al'ba kur'kee," rhyming with "Have a turkey," is preferred. However, with care, the "bu" becomes "biu" or "boo." And the other extreme, a common one, is just "alba-kurk."

Algonquin, Ill. Authorities say the Indian tribe, though spelled this way, should be pronounced "kin" rather than "kwin." But the residents of the Illinois town sound the *u*, which seems logical.

Alief, Tex. The accent is still properly on the "lief" ("leaf"), but the first step in recessive accent (sounding the first vowel long), has already been taken. Similar development is under way in *Detroit* and *Racine*.

Allegan, Mich. The first syllable is accented and the *a* is flat. Rhymes with the Irish name, Calligan.

Allegany (N. Y. and Oreg.)

**Alleghany** (Calif. and Va.)

**Allegheny** (mountains in Pa., Md., etc.)

No matter how you spell them, they rhyme pretty well with "Sally Blaney." Accent first and third.

**Alluwe**, Okla. This is said to be Delaware Indian for "something better," and to be pronounced "Al'oo-we."

**Alpena**, Mich. The *al* is flat, the accented syllable is "pee."

**Altamaha** (river, Georgia). Rhymes with "Call a macaw." (I discussed it with the old bridge-tender, where U. S. 17 crosses it.) That the accented last syllable is "haw," as in *Omaha*, is substantiated by the fact that there is an *Altamahaw* in North Carolina.

**Alton**, Ill. As in *Albany*, *Alden*, and *Galsworthy*, the *al* is sounded like *all*. Yet as a given name *Alton* often starts out like *Alfred*. Now what to do about *Albany* and *Albion*?

**Alvarado**, Minn. Far enough from Mexico to transform "rah" into "ray" (accented).

**Amador** (county, Calif.) Rhymes with "*slam* a door." Curiously enough, the approved pronunciation of *Ama*, in Louisiana, is with the long *a*.

**Amboy**. Webster used to allow a second-syllable accent, and Century to insist on it. But the

residents of both Perth Amboy, N. J., and Amboy, Ill., accent the first.

**Amherst.** All agree that the *h* is silent; and the fact that the last syllable is given no emphasis protects it from the barbarians who say "Joisey City."

**Amidon, N. Dak.** Rhymes well enough with *Amazon*.

**Amigo, W. Va.** The Spanish (accent on "mee") has been kept, possibly through the influence of the Wild West serial.

**Amite, La.** Would we could say that this is just "a mite of a town." However, its French origin, and its location in the Creole country have preserved the pronunciation of "ah-meet'."

**Amorita, Okla.** Like most other names ending in *ita*, wherever located, this is "eeta." But see OUACHITA.

**Amory.** (Family name.) Given a long *a* by Webster, this is nevertheless heard as "emery" in Boston and, I am told, as "ammery" in Maryland. Mississippi sticks to the long *a*, however.

**Amoskeag.** (Part of Manchester, N. H.) The accented last syllable is "keg." Rhymes with "Slam us, *Meg!*"

**Anacortes, Wash.** Thorp reports that the residents would rhyme it, just about, with "man escort us," whereas Webster's "tes" rhymes with "fez." Anyway, accent the "cor."

**Anaheim, Calif.** Keeps the German *ei*; rhymes with "*plan a crime*."

**Anahuac, Tex.** Accent the first syllable: "Anna whack."

**Anatone, Wash.** Rhymes with "*man alone*."

**Andrade, Calif.** This curious surname rhymes with "fan Daddy," with the accent on "Dad."

**Anne Arundel (Maryland).** Breaking away from British tradition, this becomes "Anna Run'del."

**Antietam (Pa. and Md.)** The "tie" is "tee" (accented), in this Civil War battle.

**Antigo, Wis.** Rhymes with "(Where did) Santy go?" Accent the "an."

**Anton Chico, N. Mex.** "Anton" rhymes with "Stanton," while "Chico" remains true to its Mexican ancestry and its Marx brother: "chee'ko." My observer reports some amusing mispronunciations: "Anen-Chicker," "Antie-Chicky," or "Anee-Cheek."

**Apalachee (bay, Florida).** "Appa-latchy." And the river, *Apalachicola*, is "Appa-latcha-co'la." But the *Appalachian* Mountains may be "lay" or "latch" (the latter being preferred by Webster).

**Apalachicola, Fla.** See APALACHEE.

**Apison, Tenn.** This suspicious-looking name from the Bible Belt has, in point of fact, nothing to do with evolution, as shown by the flat *a* (as in *tap*). It is apparently related to the better-known *Apperson*, only served southern style.

Appalachian. See APALACHEE.

Aquidneck (island—now *Rhode* Island). Emphasize the “quid,” as in tobacco chewing. The *a* is mute.

Arabi, Ga. Still like Milton’s word for Arabia, *Araby*. Approximate rhyme: “*scare* a bee.”

Aransas Pass, Tex. “Kansas” is an approximate rhyme, though the first *s* of “Aransas” is perhaps more of a hiss.

Arapahoe, Nebr. Rhymes with “*à nap* ago” (I understand that Joe Louis, inveterate nap-taker, keeps track of the time this way).

Arcata, Calif. Americanized, to rhyme with the approved pronunciation of “data” (the accented *a* long).

Arkansas. The state is, of course, “ar’ kan-saw.” At a gas station near Fort Smith, where U. S. 64 crosses the Arkansas River, a man with one arm (cotton-gin accident) assured me that the river was pronounced both ways; i.e., “ar Kan’ zas” in Kansas. That ought to settle that argument once and for all, especially when you reflect that he was a very serious-minded individual with only one arm. In case you are interested, Webster confirms his assertion that both versions are accepted.

Arkansas City, Kansas. In tribute to their own state, and in mild defiance of their neighbors, the people here call it “ar-Kan’zas” City.



**Arnheim, Mich.** Keeps the German *ei*; i.e., rhymes with "rhyme."

**Aroostook (Maine).** "A *ruse* took (me by surprise)." Hiss the *s*.

**Arriba, Colo.** Having turned its back on its Spanish original (which means "upstairs"), it is now like "arable" without the *l* sound.

**Arthyde, Minn.** Founded by two brothers, Arthur and Clyde Hutchins, the town is pronounced like the first part of *Arthur*, "arth," and the last part of *Clyde*, "yde"—I am informed by Mr. Clyde himself. Accent "arth."

**Ashokan, N. Y.** Rhymes with "a token." Accent on the "show."

**Ashtabula, Ohio.** Accent the "bu," rhyming it with "few."

**Ashuelot, N. H.** "Ash'we-lot," rhyming with "mashie-shot," according to Webster. But the Bishop of New Hampshire told me the other day to stress the "wee," just like the little pig on his way home from market. Both are common.

**Asotin, Wash.** Rhymes with "a-floatin'." Note that the accent corresponds with that of *Ashokan*, N. Y., another Indian name.

**Atascosa, Tex.** Rhymes with "Pat a *crow*, suh."

**Atchafalaya Bayou (La.)** The main accent is on the next-to-the-last syllable, but there is an unexpected secondary accent on "chaff." The thing

rhymes with "a staff, Maria" (long *i*). And "Bayou" is just "*By* you."

**Athens.** In New York: "The older generation invariably pronounces the *a* long." Or you can put it this way, according to one correspondent: "If you have money in the bank, the *a* is flat, as in Greece; if you are down and out, the *a* is long." (Apparently in Athens, N. Y., only the younger generation have money in the bank, *mirabile dictu*.) The candy-shop man by the Hudson ferry, on being interviewed by Mr. Bolton, said it was long *a* until the schools changed it.

*New Athens*, Ohio, uses the long *a*, thus pointing the difference between it and plain *Athens* in the same state, which is short. In Maine and Illinois, the residents, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, keep the long *a*. But in other states the flat *a* is regular.

**Athol.** In Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota, the "ath" is accented and the *o* unstressed; the general effect much like "ath'l." The Scotch have an "Athole" and an "Atholl," all pronounced as above.

**Ausable.** The river in upstate New York is usually spelled this way; the Michigan river, *Au Sable*. Both rhyme with "aw Mabel!"

**Auxvasse**, Mo. The most common local pronunciation is "aw-vawz'." Which is neither French nor English.

**Ava**, Ill. and N. Y. Rhymes with "wave a," as in "wave a flag."

**Avon**. (Shakespeare's river.) In England, usually long *a*. Towns named after it in Idaho, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, and New York are correctly long *a* also, but the flat *a* (as in "avenue") is more common in Montana, while at Avondale (Colo., Pa., and W. Va.) and Avonmore, Pa., the flat *a* is correct.

# B

**Baca** (Colo.) As in "Bake a (cake)."

**Baden.** The only American one that Webster lists is in Pennsylvania, and is given the German pronunciation (rhyming with "sodden") though it is hundreds of miles from "Dutch" spheres of influence. In Illinois and Texas, we have two places called "New Baden," both of which rhyme with "laden."

**Bala-Cynwyd, Pa.** "Balla (as in "ballot") kin' wid." Welsh, of course.

**Balaton, Minn.** The "bala" is the same as in the previous name; the whole is, approximately, "ballot on" ("When shall we *ballot on* this issue?").

**Ballagh, Nebr.** Knocks off the "gh" in approved Irish style: rhymes with "Allah" (first *a* flat and accented).

**Balmorhea, Tex.** This rhymes with "Pal, more hay!" only don't pronounce the *h*.

**Bamberg, S. C.** No German left. Rhymes with "hamburg" (also americanized).

**Bandera, Tex.** In process of americanization.

Webster says "ban-day'ra," Bolton "ban-dee'ra." The latter is gaining.

**Bangor.** In Wales and Pennsylvania, this rhymes with "anger"; but in Maine, according to Mawson, they "*ban* gore" (i.e., prohibit bloodshed).

**Banida, Idaho.** The pronunciation indicates that the name derived from "Idaho"; in reality, however, it is a collision-form of "Bannock" and "Oneida," as at the time it was named it was on the boundary between those two counties. Accent the long *i*.

**Banock, Ky.** The same flat *a* (accented) as in Bannock, Idaho, despite the difference in the number of *n*'s.

**Banquete, Tex.** "Ban-ketty," rhyming with "Can Hetty." Accent in the middle, as in the original Spanish.

**Baraga, Mich.** Rhymes, about, with "Harrigan," if you cancel the *n*.

**Barnstable, Mass.** This is pronounced much like its ancestor in England, "Barnstaple," both being strongly accented on the first syllable. On Cape Cod it rhymes pretty well with "constable" (and I don't mean "constabule").

**Barre, Mass., Vt.** Rhymes with "Harry" (which purists will tell you is different from "hairy").

**Basalt, Idaho.** Neither pronunciation given in Webster for this kind of marble checks with the local version in Idaho. There it is "Bay'salt," which has

an incongruous seashore ring about it. The mountain in Colorado is given by Webster as either "bà-sawlt" or "bass'awlt" (flat *a*, like the fish). Incidentally, why don't the experts list "bass" as a rhyme for "pass" and "brass"?

Basehor, Kans. Unpleasant predicament here: one must choose between the comparative of "base" ("baser") and the two words "*base* here." The latter is more common. Even the German word from which it may ultimately have derived, *böser*, means "worse."

Baton Rouge, La. "Baton" rhymes pretty well with "satin"; and "rouge" is just what you would expect.

Baugh, Tenn. A worth-while exhibit in the study of English inconsistencies. This is "Baw."

Bayonne, N. J. "Bay-own." Long *a*, long *o*; slightly more accent on the "own."

Bazile Mills, Nebr. Rhymes with "Brazil" (accent on the "zill").

Beallsville, Ohio. Bolton says the *a* is silent; first syllable just "Bells."

Beatrice. In Alabama and Nebraska, the "at" is emphasized, making the name rhyme with "free mattress."

Beaufort. In North Carolina, more people keep the French "bo"; in South Carolina, influenced by "beauty," they call it "biu."

**Beaulieu.** In England and in Georgia, this usually rhymes with "Muley" (pet-name constantly used by mule-drivers, I don't think). In North Dakota, some attempt has been made at the French, the name commonly rhyming with "magnolia" ("bolia"); yet there is a prevalent notion that the brakeman says "Beulah."

**Becida, Minn.** "Beside ä," as in "Beside a waterfall" or something.

**Bedias, Tex.** My observer, frank and ingenious, represents it with "bead-eyes."

**Bejou, Minn.** This spelling is an approximation not of the French word for "jewel," but of the Chipewewa word for "hello." It is pronounced "Bee'shoo" in Bejou.

**Belen, N. Mex.** Rhymes with "relen(t)," if you drop the *t*. Filling-station man there told me it was the Spanish spelling of *Bethlehem*.

**Bellaire, Ohio.** "Bell-air'."

**Bellefontaine, Ohio.** A partial translation from the French has been achieved, locally: "bell-fountain" (accent in the middle).

**Bellefonte, Pa.** "Bell-font." About equal accents.

**Belle Fourche, S. Dak.** This has kept the French, "bell foorsh" ("oor" as in "poor").

**Belle Isle.** (En route to Newfoundland.)

Rhymes with "Well, I'll," as in the classic phrase, "Well, I'll be——!"

Belo, W. Va. Not liking the connotation of "below," the residents accent the "bee."

Beloit, Kans. and Wis. Almost rhymes with "adroit"; the *e* is not at all noticeable.

Belpre, Ohio. Could be rhymed with "belfry" without undue acrobatics.

Beltrami, Minn. Accent in the middle. Rhymes with "Well, Sammy!"

Bemidji, Minn. Accent in the middle: "be Midgy."

Benewah (county, Idaho). Rhymes with "(Give me a) penny, Ma!"

Benicia, Calif. Rhymes with "We *wish* ya (good luck)."

Benzien, Mont. "Ben zeen"—just as if spelled the regular way. Then there is a "Benzie" in Michigan that rhymes with "frenzy."

Berea, Ky. and Ohio. Rhymes with "we *see* ya," only soft-pedal the first *e*.

Bergen. In New Jersey this rhymes meekly with *Jurgen* (first syllable accent, hard *g*), but get up into Genesee County, N. Y., and you find the last syllable "jen," and even accented! Perhaps by association with the soft *g* of *Genesee*.

Berlin. The German accentuation (on the last syllable) has been hopelessly lost in almost all sec-



tions of this country—at least as applied to towns named after the German capital; in Maryland, “bur lin” is heard but not approved; only among the Pennsylvania Dutch does it flourish.

**Berthoud, Colo.** Abandon French when you enter here. Just tack a *d* on the end of “Bertha.”

**Bethune, S. C.** Usually “beth yoon’,” rhyming with “tune.” It has French and Scotch connections.

**Bexar, Texas.** To account for the silencing of the *x* in *Bexar*, the story is told that an illiterate Indian named “Bear” used to sign his name with an X, across which one of the local intelligentsia would write “Bear” to identify the signature; and that thus the county came to be spelled *Bexar* and pronounced “Bear.” The correct explanation is, of course, that the Mexican version of *x* or *j* (it was originally *Bejar*) is simply an *h* sound, making *Bexar* rhyme, to all intents and purposes, with “fare.” I prophesy that, eventually, through analogy with *Texas* if for no other reason, it will rhyme with “vex ’er.”

**Bieber, Calif.** A contribution to our study of the German *ie* in America. (It will be remembered that Hank *Leiber*, baseball player, is generally pronounced “lee.”) The literati of Bieber call it “bee’ ber,” but the popularity of “by’ ber” is increasing.

**Billerica, Mass.** Its ancestor in England is spelled *Billericay* and pronounced “Bill Ricky.” Harriet Beecher Stowe said in one of her stories that that was the way New England did it, too. But

today "bill' rick-a" represents better the most common usage.

**Biloxi, Miss.** Tourists say "bill lock'see," to rhyme with "foxy," but the natives of this picturesque resort on the Gulf shorten the middle syllable to "lux."

**Binghamton, N. Y.** Perhaps the *p* in "Northampton" makes all the difference. But the *hamp* certainly gets the accent in the latter, while in the former the "ham" is but a murmur (the accent being on the "bing").

**Birmingham.** See BUCKINGHAM.

**Birome, Tex.** Not Spanish; not any longer, anyway. Just "By Rome."

**Blabon, N. Dak.** Rhymes perfectly with Jack Benny's old cue for the orchestra: "*Play, Don.*"

**Blenheim.** The British corrupted *Blindheim* into *Blenheim*, and then rhymed it with "pen 'em." In New York and South Carolina the British spelling and pronunciation are standard, though both of my observers comment that it ought to be "hime" (long *i*). Which is not strictly true, inasmuch as the name in its present form is English, not German.

**Blevins, Ky.** Rhymes with the dialect exclamation, "Hevins!"

**Blough, Pa.** Exhibit A in our collection of "ough" oddities. This rhymes with "plow."

**Blount** (Ala.) According to Webster, this is "blunt," like the English surname.

**Boca Raton**, Fla. See RATON.

**Boelus**, Nebr. Like a large pill for a horse: "bo' lus."

**Boerne**, Tex. This "oe" is different. Just "Burney," like Fanny and Ben.

**Bogota**. While "Bogata," Tex., was named for "Bogota,"—somebody slipped on the spelling, and fell headlong on the pronunciation; in South America it is "bo-go-tah" but in Texas it is "bo go' ta." In Illinois and New Jersey this same "go" accent is used, though the spelling blunder has been corrected.

**Bois D'Arc**, Mo. Usually "Bo' dark." But occasionally gets itself mixed up with Noah's boat and becomes "Board Ark."

**Boise**, Idaho. Though commonly rhymed with "noisy," it should be "boy say," according to the Superintendent of Schools. Webster has recently changed his second syllable from a sort of unaccented "zay" to a "see."

**Bolckow**, Mo. Something like "ball' co." My observer reports "a sort of Missouri drawl"; at any rate, the "kow" is not bovine (see MOSCOW).

**Bolivar**. South of Panama, this is "bo lee' var." But in Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee, it just about rhymes with "Oliver."

**Bolling.** (Field in Washington.) Rhymes with "rolling."

**Bondurant,** Iowa. The "du" used to be "diu," accented. But the accent has receded to the "bon."

**Bonneville Dam,** Oreg. Though Webster says "bon' vil," F. D. R. made it three syllables, in his speech there: "bon' à-vil." And Bonneville, Wyo., makes it "Bonny-ville."

**Borger,** Tex. The *g* is hard as in "Gertrude"; accent on the "bor."

**Borgne** (Louisiana). Omit the *g* and the *e*: "born." It means "one-eyed."

**Boscawen.** In New Hampshire, the approved version is almost "bah' skwen," though an earlier rendering concludes, according to different authorities, with "woin" or "wine." The British admiral for whom it was named seems to have accented the middle, making it "sko" or "skaw." An island in the South Seas was named after him, but it proved to be too hard to pronounce, and was changed to *Niuatobutabu*.

**Boscobel.** One in England, one in Wisconsin, one in New York City (street in the Bronx)—all are pronounced "bah' sko-bell."

**Bosque,** Tex. Best usage retains the Spanish *e* (as long *a*) but "skee" is gaining. Stick to "bah' skay" for a while. But Bolton says *Bosqueville*, in the same state, has an accented "skee."

**Boston.** (A collapsed form, originally *Botolphs-town*.) Even to a New Englander "bahss' tun" is likely to sound affected; the farther west you go, the broader the "aw."

**Botetourt.** (County in Virginia.) Accent on first syllable. Rhymes pretty well with "spotty shirt."

**Bouse, Ariz.** Though the brakeman tends to say "Booze," natives tell me the "ou" is as in "ouch." The rhyme is "arouse."

**Bovina.** In New York and Mississippi, the *i* is long, as in "Dinah." But in Texas it is "vee." I remember because I had a flat tire between there and "Friona"—and both the *i*'s were "ee."

**Bowden, W. Va.** Lippincott gives Cape Bowden, in the Arctic, a long *o*; but West Virginia rhymes "bow" with "cow."

**Bowdoin, Maine.** "Bo-d'n." And the correct pronunciation of *Bowdoinham*, in the same state, is just "Bo-d'n-ham," but I am told that "Bordingham" is common locally.

**Bowie.** In Arizona, one finds the expected "boo' ee" (traditional in Texas, though Mawson asserts that the colonel himself, defender of the Alamo, rhymed it with "showy"), but one is surprised to find that the same "oo" is correct as far north as Maryland.

**Brazos, Tex.** Still close to the Mexican: "brah' zose," rhyming with "dose."

**Brea**, Calif. (Spanish for "asphalt.") Unlike *Rea* and *McCrea*, this breaks its "ea" in two: "bree' a."

**Breakabeen**, N. Y. Just "break a bean," like a novel substitute for "take pot luck": "Just drop in and *break a bean* with us."

**Breathitt** (county, Ky.) According to Webster, the *breath* (accented) rhymes with *death*, as of course it should; and the "itt" is "it."

**Bremen**. Don't go Teutonic on this one in Indiana, nor in New Bremen, Ohio. Both are "bree' men."

**Brielle**, N. J. Named after a Dutch city, and still pronounced much as it is: "bree-ell'."

**Brodhead**. Though Webster calls for "brahd," "*Broad* head" (or "Broad 'ed," to rhyme with "applauded") is just about as common in the Ashokan section of New York as it is in Wisconsin.

**Bruni**, Tex. To say that this rhymes with "loony" would be fully as bad as to say that *Frazee*, Minn., rhymes with "crazy." So I won't. But they do.

**Bryn Mawr**. In Wales, it may rhyme with "our," but the town and school in Pennsylvania rhyme with "shin *scar*," as in field-hockey.

**Bucatanna**, Miss. Sometimes spelled "Buck," and should be pronounced that way. Rhymes with "Duck a *son o'* (mine)."

**Buchanan**, Iowa, Mich., Mo., Va. As an American place-name, this seems to be losing its old "biu" and coming to rhyme with "à cannon."

**Buckingham**. In England, just hum the "ham." But in Virginia, the "ham" is important. The same Anglo-American difference can be heard in *Birmingham*.

**Bucoda**, Wash. Unlike "Buchanan," this has kept the normal "biu." The accent is in the middle, and the rhyme, "You, Rhoda."

**Bucyrus**, O. Again, "biu." And "Cyrus" is just "Cyrus" (emphasis on the "sigh").

**Buena**. As used in American place-names (alone, or in Buena Vista, or Buenaventura, or Buena Park), this has pretty generally lost touch with the Spanish and become "bew' nà" (to rhyme with the first part of "funeral") or even come to rhyme with "puny." In California, however, the "better element" hold out for "bway' nà," while Washington has its own variation, in "biu en' nà."

**Bueyeros**, N. Mex. Corrupted from the Mexican into something that, my observer says, sounds like "wide arrows," with the *d* omitted. However, indications are that the *b* will eventually be pronounced, if not now; be conservative with "Buy arrows."

**Bunger**, Tex. On my card of inquiry, I asked whether this rhymed with "hunger," "plunger," or "one-lunger." My fears that feelings would be hurt

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and no reply forthcoming were unfounded. It rhymes with "hunger."

Burlingame, Calif. Accent on the first syllable; the middle may be "ling" or "lin"; but the last is unmistakably "game," with a long *a*.

Bustamante, Tex. In evolving from Spanish to English, this has reached the "boost-a-men-tee" stage.

Butte, Mont. Just like the abbreviation of "beauty": "beaut."



# C

**Caballo**, N. Mex. ("Horse.") Proximity to the Mexican border has kept this "Kah vah' yo."

**Cabell** (county, Virginia). Like James Branch *Cabell*, rhymes with "gabble."

**Cabery**, Ill. Accent and vowel sounds as in "quavery."

**Cache**, Ill., and Utah. Straight French: "cash."

**Cadiz**. In Indiana and Kentucky, "Kay' Diz," as if you were saying a curt "O.K." to Dizzy Dean. But in Ohio, a "cad" has crept in.

**Caillou**, La. ("Pebble.") An approximation of the French, "kahyoo'," is still standard, but "kay loo'" is gaining.

**Cairo**, Ill. In Egypt, "ky' ro." But in Little Egypt (where the Ohio joins the Mississippi), it is, as my observer says, "just like the corn syrup"—and that means "care" plus "oh," not long *a*.

**Calais**. When I told Richard Warren Hatch, young novelist of the Down East scene, that I had never heard "Calais" rhymed with "palace," he murmured, "Very ca'less of you." Careless or not, it represents not only the Simon-pure Republican ver-

sion (Maine and Vermont) but also a common British pronunciation of the channel port. The French rhymes with "à play."

**Calaveras** (California). The Spanish is still approximated: "Cala" rhymes with "Allah" (first syllable accent); "vay' rus" properly has a long *a* sound, but weakens often into a rhyme for "terrace."

**Calcasieu** (Louisiana). "Kal' ka-shoo." Rhymes with "girl sneezes," if you see what I mean.

**Calexico**, Calif. This is a type of collision-name found on the borders of almost every state; it is pronounced, of course, "Cal(ifornia-M)exico," with eviscerations.

**Calipatria**, Calif. Though sometimes abbreviated to "Calipat," its soup-and-fish name is pronounced "cal-i-pay' tree-a." Local people say this is more common than Webster's "pat."

**Callao**, Utah. Nothing Peruvian here. Rhymes with "a K.O." Accent the "lay."

**Calliope**, Iowa. Out where the tall corn grows, this rhymes with "*Gal* elope." The same is true, there, of the wheezy steam-organ, now happily almost extinct.

**Camack**, Ga. (Also spelled *Camak*.) Rhymes pretty well with "Some *back*!" (i.e., the first *a* is "uh").

**Camano** (Washington). Thorp, professing to represent current local usage, contradicts Webster

and Lippincott, in regard to this island. Not "ca mah' no," he asserts, but a rhyme for "a *pain*, oh!"

**Camas**, Wash. Like "campus" with the *p* omitted. So is Kamas, Utah.

**Cambria**, Calif., Va. First syllable rhymes with "clam." It's the Latin name for *Wales*.

**Canajoharie**, N. Y. Rhymes with "Anna, Joe, Harry." Stress "Harry."

**Canalon**, Mo. Preferably as in "canal on fire!" though first-syllable accent is common. My observer says it means, in Spanish, "Where goeth the channel," but my dictionary, less poetical, says "large gutter."

**Canandaigua**, N. Y. "Cannon day' gwah."

**Canaseraga**, N. Y. "Canna se-raw' ga." There is something about an *a* in an Indian name that makes folks do unexpected things. Examples: *Chickasha*, *Ojibwa*, *Wichita*. Look them up. . . . And how did you make out?

**Caneadea**, N. Y. The more careful say "canny à dee'à," most folks slur it a bit, "can à dee' à."

**Caney**, Kans. Rhymes with "Delaney," as you would expect.

**Canon**, Ariz. The postoffice does not permit the ñ that the residents continue to use in both this and *Canon City*, Colo. But both pronounce it "can-yun"—and, in view of certain obvious differences between

canyons, cannons, and canons, would do well to change the spelling to "canyon."

**Canonsburg, Pa.** If it ever was "cañon," it is just "cannon" now.

**Canton.** Everywhere in America, accent the "can," but in China the "ton."

**Cape Girardeau, Mo.** "Girard, oh" for natives. The accent has receded to the "rar."

**Carmine, Tex.** A common pronunciation rhymes with "sardine"; but Webster's preference for the color, "car' min," is also preferred for the place.

**Carpinteria, Calif.** Mexican influence has kept the accent on the next-to-the-last syllable, "ree," just as it has in "cafeteria"—in Southern California.

**Carrizo Springs, Tex.** "Kah ree' zo." And for *Carrizozo*, N. Mex., just push the accent along one notch. The filling-station man there made it rhyme pretty well with "merry bozo."

**Caruthersville, Mo.** The name of the founder was evidently a variant of Carruthers or Crothers; there's a rhyme for *mother* in all three. The "ca" of the first is sometimes sung out by the brakeman as "kay," incorrectly, as anyone with an ear for brakemen would expect. The *a* is mute, and the accent on the *u*.

**Casa Piedra, Tex.** Still quite Mexican: "kah'sah pee ed' rà." Or even lengthen the "ed" to "aid," if you want to make an impression on some señorita.

**Cason, Tex.** Like "caisson," it rhymes with "Jason" or "Mason."

**Cassadaga.** In both New York and Florida, the accented syllable is "day." (See CANASERAGA.)

**Castile, N. Y.** This rhymes with "last *mile*." But let me say here that the name for Spain and the name for soap end in "steel" (usually accented).

**Cathlamet, Wash.** Girl named Catherine comes to bat. Brother cries, "Cath, *lam* it!"

**Cattaraugus, N. Y.** Rhymes, informally, with "Pat 'er *jaw*, Gus."

**Cayucos, Calif.** Rhymes well with "my *new* bus."

**Cayuga, N. Y.** According to Webster, the first *a* is as in "chaotic." Evidently we must treat the Indian *cay* differently from the same combination in Spanish. Say "kay oo' gâ."

**Cayuse, Wash.** Though a Cayuse is a Waiilatpuan Indian from Umatilla (I just mention this to keep you from forgetting that we are engaged in a Wild Name Hunt), I believe the name to be of Spanish origin. At any rate, it is Spanish enough to rhyme with "my noose"; Webster emphasizes the second syllable, the state of Washington the first.

**Cebolla, N. Mex.** ("Onion.") The Mexicans don't pronounce the *l*'s, and neither should we. You might rhyme this with "We *know* ya." Begin, of course, with a hissing "s." See SEBOYETA.

**Cecil.** The high-brow radio announcer calls this "sessil" if the Cecil in question is British; and the higher the brow, the closer he comes to "sissil." However, towns in Arkansas, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and a county in Maryland appear to be unanimously for "see' sil," while in Pennsylvania a rhyme for "vessel" is "used by a few."

Cecilton, Md., and Cecilville, Calif., are curiously akin, in that the accepted pronunciation, whether you are on Chesapeake Bay or in the Cascade Mountains, is "sissil."

**Celina, Ohio.** Naturally this is "se li' na," rhyming with "Dinah"; but I was a little surprised to learn that in Texas it is the same—the explanation of the long *i* being, I suppose, the four hundred miles that separate Celina from the Mexican border.

**Celoron, N. Y.** Sounds a good deal like "sell' or-own," as in this slightly cock-eyed conversation: "Do you eat your own vegetables?" "No, we *sell* o'r own."

**Ceres.** The goddess of grain, and towns in her honor in California, New York, and Virginia, are all pronounced about like "series." But how do you pronounce "series"? Webster allows "see'rizz," for instance, and is indeed very firm about that "ee" in the first syllable, whereas Ceres, N. Y., reports, "I have never heard it pronounced 'see'reez.'" The fact is that most of us rhyme that first syllable of "series" (and *Ceres*) with "beer."

Ceylon, Minn. In spite of the hymn—

What though the spicy breezes  
Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle—

Minnesota correctly rhymes it with "see *Don*."

**Chaffee.** Logically, and even etymologically (as it comes, I am told, from the village of Chafcombe, in England), this ought to rhyme with "taffy" unless spelled with one *f*, as it sometimes is. In Colorado, Missouri, and North Dakota, the "taffy" version appears to be regular, though by some strange quirk, in the last-named state, a minority consisting chiefly of the brakeman and the superintendent of schools are holding the fort for the exotic long *a*, which is really a New Englandism.

**Chagres** (Canal Zone). Rhymes with "progress" (noun, American style)—accent on the "ah."

**Chagrin Falls**, Ohio. The Buckeyes don't attempt to disguise this depressing name; but anyway they emphasize the "grin."

**Challis**, Idaho. Like the word "chalice," rhymes with "Alice."

**Chalybeate**, Miss. "Killibeate" is what Mr. John Smauker called "the wery strong flavour o' warm flat irons" that Sam Weller thought particularly unpleasant. The accent is on the first syllable: "collie be-it."

**Champaign**, Ill. and Ohio. Just like the drink: "sham *pain*."

**Chanute, Kans.** Starts out like "shut"; vowel sounds and accent as in "uproot."

**Chappaqua, N. Y.** The sneezing "ch" is apparently gaining on "shap"; rhyme the whole with "*tap a jaw.*"

**Chariton, Iowa and Mo.** Change the *d* of "Sheridan" to a *t*, and you have it.

**Charlemont, Mass.** (The other side of the Mohawk Trail.) The natives don't bother with the French "sh." Yet it's not quite "Charlie." Rhyme it with "*mar à font.*"

**Charleroi, Pa.** Here again the French "sh" is yielding to the sneeze; the French "rwah" long ago surrendered to "Roy"; but the last-syllable accent has been largely retained. Regrettably like "Charley Roy."

**Charlotte.** The usual accent (on the "shar") is found in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, and Canada. But Michigan and Vermont emphasize the "lot," just to be different. Or is it French-Canadian influence?

**Chatawa, Miss.** ("Sparkling water.") Rhymes with "*Bat a jaw.*"

**Chateaugay, N. Y.** This name seems to be in process of changing from the French to something that might rhyme with "*pat a bee.*" At present, "shatty-gee" (hard *g*) is the most common.

**Chatham.** Bolton says that the "ham" is gen-



erously brought out, down Cape Cod way. I do not find this to be true of Chatham, N. Y., where it is usually a mute sort of "um." But see EASTHAM.

**Chautauqua**, N. Y. The first "au" and the last *a* are similar in sound ("uh") : "shà taw' kwà."

**Chazy**, N. Y. The French-Canadian accent, on the "ee," is still favored by Webster, but the power of the "lazy-crazy" analogy cannot be denied. The "ch" is still "sh."

**Cheboygan**, Mich. Pronounced the same as Sheboygan, Wis., ("shà boy' gàn"), it may also have originated with the squaw who reported thus laconically on the birth of a second son—but the unromantic truth is that there is an Indian word, *sheboygan*, that means "cornstalk."

**Chehalis**, Wash. Starts with a sneeze, and rhymes with "we *say* this."

**Chelan**, Wash. Preferably, "shà lan'," to rhyme with "a *man*."

**Chelmsford**. In England and in Massachusetts, the *l* is often silent (as in "palm" or "calm"), but the "chemz" is giving way to the spelling pronunciation, influenced by "elm," especially in *elm*-shaded New England.

**Chemung**, N. Y. Like many "ch" names of Indian origin—especially when the "ch" syllable is unaccented—this starts with an "sh"; rhymes with "the *young*."

**Chenango** (New York). Means "large bull thistles." Begins with "sh," and rhymes pretty well with "we tango" (not dwelling on the *we*).

**Chenoa**, Ill. "She *know* à," as in "Does she *know* a good place to go?" (See GENOA.)

**Chepachet**, N. Y., R. I. Better start with a sneeze, and accent "patch."

**Chesaning**, Mich. Accent on the first syllable; fair enough rhyme for "lessening."

**Cheviot**, Ohio. Here the *Chevrolet* influence has established the "sh" sound. Some rhyme the name with *idiot*, but the preferred rhyme is with "heavy butt."

**Chevy Chase**, Md. Sneeze the first "ch" as well as the second, and rhyme "Chevy" with "heavy."

**Chewelah**, Wash. Sneeze the "ch," and rhyme the whole with "à *meal* à (minute.)"

**Cheyenne**, Wyo. The Cheyenne librarian considers that "shy *Ann*," popularized in a pre-war dance tune, expresses it accurately.

**Chicago**. Chicagoans, even the very cultured, prefer "kaw" to "kah." The *Saturday Review* once ran a story, sent in by Anne Pursee of Cambridge, to the effect that an English visitor to Chicago, on being corrected for her flagrant mispronunciation, replied icily, "But *I* say 'chick' a-go.'" And Margaret Widdemore capped this one with that of the Bostonian who, being asked how Bostonians pronounced

it, returned with dignity, "We never pronounce it in Boston at all."

**Chichester**, N. Y. Webster says the first syllable (accented) rhymes with "itch" in England; but the *i* is long in New York.

**Chickasha**, Okla. A few Indian names ending in *sha* take your breath away by calling it "shay" (see *NEODESHA*). This is one of them. Yet it comes from the same Indian word as *Chickasaw*. A lady on Chickasha Street, in Chickasha, once was awarded a Packard car in a prize contest. But the radio announcer didn't win any new friends for Packard in Oklahoma when he mispronounced *Chickasha* twice in one sentence!

**Chico**, Calif. Keeps to the Mexican (and Marxian) : "tchee' co."

**Chicopee**, Mass. Accent the "chick."

**Chicot** (Arkansas). The French has been kept : "shee' ko."

**Chillicothe**, Ohio. The first two syllables about as spelled; the third, "kah," accented (but a first-syllable accent is gaining, among the residents, in line with the familiar recessive-accent trend); the last syllable, like "the" in "theme." It is the Shawnee word for "Old Town."

**Chiloquin**, Oreg. ("The meeting of the waters.") Accent on the "chill." Rhymes with "pillow thin."

**Chimacum**, Wash. They mostly sneeze their "ch's" in Washington. Rhymes with "*trim* a chum."

**China Lake**, Maine. Bolton says this is locally pronounced "Chaney." Back in 1791, that way of saying "china" was given preference by Walker, in his *Critical Pronouncing Dictionary*.

**Chinati**, Tex. Has nothing to do with tea-from-China. Call it "tchee nah' tee."

**Chinook**, Mont. "Chin" as in "double chin." And "nook" (accented) rhymes with "cook." This is sensible, in that "spook" is the only "-ook" word which has the long "oo."

**Chino Wash** (Arizona). Nothing to do with a laundry. The "Chino" (as with Chino, Calif.) is "chee' no." A wash is a sort of creek, usually broad and shallow. Near Flagstaff, there is a Woody Wash. New Mexico has a *Tuntsa Wash* (near Toadlena) which can no doubt be worked into the conversation at this point.

**Chippewa Falls**, Wis. Though there is a relation between this and "Ojibwa," (often pronounced and even spelled "way"), "Chippewa" has the vowel sounds of "hip of a," as in "hip of a snake."

**Chocorua** (mountain, N. H., just three feet higher than Mt. Greylock). Start with a sneeze, and accent the "core." Rhymes with "Joe *shore* threw à (fit)."

**Cibecue**, Ariz. "Sibby-cue," rhyming with "Libby Q."

**Cibolo**, Tex. "See' bo-lo."

**Cimarron**, Colo., Kans., N. Mex., Okla. Accent on the "sim," and rhymes pretty well with "*grimmer* tone."

**Cincinnati**, O. The "natty" ending seems to be approved by the natives; "nah-tee" is not heard, thereabouts; "nattah" is "common but slovenly," being quite general with outsiders (unlike the otherwise similar "mizoora" for *Missouri* or "my-amma" for *Miami*).

**Cincinnati**, N. Y. "Sin-sin-nay' tus." "Everybody anywhere near here always calls it that."

**Clatskanie**, Oreg. Lippincott had the accent in the middle, but latest reports are that the thing rhymes with "*cats* can die."

**Cleburne**, Ala., Ark., Tex. "Klee' burn."

**Cle Elum**, Wash. "Clee ellum" (remember it by the "slippery ellum" of our childhood). It is Indian for "clear water."

**Cleves**, Ohio. "Kleevz." The nickname "Cleve," equipped with apostrophe-and-s, was not however the origin, but rather the German town of that name.

**Clio**, Ala., Iowa, Ky., Mich. Rhymes with "Ohio" (though one brakeman on the Rock Island has been understood to give it the classical "ee").

**Clito**, Ga. Observer writes: "Everyone, white, black, and otherwise, pronounces it 'klee-to,' with

the same accent on both syllables." But I suspect the stress is chiefly on the first.

**Cloquet, Minn.** There is unanimous local agreement that this rhymes with "croquet," even to the accent on the second syllable.

**Cocheset, Mass.** Accent on the "chee" (sneezed).

**Cochituate, Mass.** Accent on the "chit." Rhymes with "the very last *bit you ate*" (Oliver Wendell Holmes).

**Cocolamus, Pa.** Interesting evolution here. Lip-pincott had "law' mus," and strangers still say "lah' mus," according to my observer—who asserts unequivocally that "lay" is right.

**Coeur d' Alene, Idaho.** The most common local pronunciation is "cur dà lane," with accent varying between first and third. "Core" is heard.

**Coeymans, N. Y.** Not quite a rhyme for "women's." Make it "kwee' manz."

**Coffeyville, Kans.** The "kah" that Mawson called for is considered an affectation in Kansas. In fact, throughout America, "kaw'fee" is preferred, as Freddie Bartholomew found out when he undertook to be master of ceremonies for Maxwell House.

**Cognac, N. C.** Rhymes with "*Jog, Mac.*" But don't shoot the waiter in the Paris café if you pronounce it that way and he doesn't catch on right at first.

**Cohoes, N. Y.** Rhymes with "no *toes*."

**Colchester, Conn.** In both England and America, this begins with an accented "coal."

**Colcord, W. Va.** But here the "col" is as in "column." And in *Colgan*, N. D., too.

**Colockum, or Colocham (Wash.)** Rhymes with "Go *sock* 'em!"

**Colon, Mich.** Like the punctuation mark, this rhymes fairly well with "stolen."

**Colorado.** Railroad men venture, too often, on "ray"; "rad" appears in good company; but "rah" (rhyming with the *o* of the first syllable) is popular, and correct, and might even prevail.

**Colosse, N. Y.** Like the first two syllables of "colossal," an expression of mild approval still sometimes used of second-feature pictures in Hollywood.

**Concord.** In Mass., and N. H., much like "conquered." But in N. C., the "ng" is less frequently heard: usually "con'cord."

**Conejos, Colo.** The proper rhyme is with "No-*pay* dose" (i.e., a dose administered by a quack who hasn't been paid for a long time). The *j* is like *h*. However, a collapsed form, "co ness'," is common, and tourists ring the changes on "Coney Joe's."

**Conemaugh (Penn.)** "Connie Maw." Near relative of Connie Mack? The accent has drifted back from third to first.

**Conesus**, N. Y. Rhymes with "Oh *crease* us!" as the baggy pants exclaimed.

**Conger**, Minn. Hard *g*, as in "Congo." Also in *Congerville*, Ill.

**Conicville**, Va. (From the shape of the hill, formerly "Cabin Hill," on which it is situated.) "Conic" is almost "comic."

**Conimicut**, R. I. Rhymes with "so *grim* a hut" or "Go *rim* a putt" or "Go *trim* a nut" or something.

**Conneaut**, Ohio. (Indian for "many fish.") "Connie ought," as in "*Connie* ought to go."

**Connecticut**. Hardly seems necessary to mention that this has no "neck-tie." It's "Nettie."

**Connellsville**, Pa. The double *l* does not steal the accent away from the "con."

**Conowingo**, Md. Start with "con," not "co," and hit it on the "wing."

**Coos**. The approved pronunciation in New Hampshire, according to Webster, is "ko' ahss." In Oregon, it rhymes with "loose."

**Copalis** (Washington). Rhymes with "Oh, *bail* us!"

**Copemish**, Mich. Rhymes, to all intents and purposes, with "*soap* dish."

**Copiah** (Miss.) Rhymes with "Josiah." (Long *i*, accented.)

**Coplay**, Pa. Soft-pedal the *a*, as if you were describing a cop who acted "copy." This is also cor-



rect for *Copley* Square, in Boston, but I am told that cab-drivers there rhyme "cop" with "pope."

**Coquille, Oreg.** "Ko keel," rhyming with "no deal."

**Cordele, Ga.** Rhymes with "More eel!" (the gentleman is fond of eel).

**Cordes, Ariz.** Two syllables. A fair rhyme for "board us."

**Cordova.** Webster says that in Alabama they stress the "cor." But in South Carolina the accent is in the middle.

**Corinth, N. Y.** (Also Vermont.) Accent the first syllable. "Old residents did call it 'Kerinth'," likewise the railroad employees, which did much toward making it incorrectly pronounced." Query: were the old residents led astray by too great familiarity with First and Second *Corinthians*?

**Corpus Christi, Tex.** "Kristy" to rhyme with "misty."

**Corsicana, Tex.** Emphasize the "can." No longer "kah."

**Corydon, Ind., Iowa.** Accent the first syllable. Rhymes with "torrid 'un" as in "She's a torrid 'un" (i.e., a hot number).

**Coshocton, Ohio.** The accented syllable is a "shock."

**Cotati, Calif.** (A famous Indian chief.) Rhymes with "Oh sotty."

**Cotopaxi, Colo.** (Evidently named for a town in Ecuador.) Rhymes with "photo-taxi." Stress the "ax."

**Coughran, Tex.** "Ko' ran." Does not rhyme with "foreign."

**Coulee City, Wash.** Pronounced like a Chinese "coolie." The Grand Coulee (accented by F. D. R. on the "ee" but by Webster on the "koo") is literally a big-dry-river-bed.

**Coupeville, Wash.** Cheerfully facing facts, my observer writes that the "coupe" is "just like any chicken coop."

**Covelo, Calif.** Unaffected by the Spanish, this name of Indian origin rhymes with "*stove* below."

**Covert, N. Y.** Though Lippincott implies that it used to be "kuv" (as in *cover*), it now starts with "ko."

**Covina, Calif.** Close enough to Mexico to rhyme with "Oh Lena!" (accent in the middle).

**Covington, Ky.** "Coving" rhymes with "loving."

**Cowesett, R. I.** Rhymes with "Go *lease* it."

**Coweta, Okla.** "Co wee' tà." My observer kindly, if quaintly, adds: "I believe this to be the nearest pronouncement as spoken by people here. It is the name of the town of Indians locating here when they were removed here from the south east."

**Cowiche, Wash.** I am happy to report that the

whole thing is as funny as it looks. The cow is itchy, with the emphasis on the "itch."

**Cowpens, S. C.** Colloquially, "kuppens," but it is no breach of good taste to pronounce it as spelled.

**Cozad, Nebr.** Webster accents the "zad," but there is evidence that the stress is already receding rapidly to the "ko."

**Creek.** As with "Lawss Anjeeleez" (q.v.), people seem to think this should rhyme with "leak," but keep right on saying "crick." At least, that is the case in Battle Creek, Mich., and Creek Locks, N. Y., while Rio Creek, Wis., and Caines Creek, Ky., frankly admit that for them "crick" is correct.

**Creve Coeur, Mo.** Natives rhyme it with "we see far," or possibly "fur" where a trace of the French persists.

**Crichton, Ala.** Rhymes with "Brighton," as Barrie's admirable butler did.

**Crillon.** This Alaska mountain of nearly 16,000 feet rhymes with "Dillon" (French influence lost).

**Croatan Sound (N. C.)** According to Webster, just two syllables, rhyming with "no fan," which was why the fan dancer got arrested.

**Croton, N. Y.** Rhymes plausibly with "boatin'," but not with *Groton* (q.v.).

**Crugers, N. Y.** Hard *g*, both here and in Cruger, Miss. There is reason to believe that they come from German *Krüger*, "saloon-keeper."

**Cuero, Tex.** ("Leather.") Rhymes usually with "Karo": "kway' ro"—or just the *a* of "care."

**Cumi, Ark.** The accented syllable is "Q". "*Too* high" is the rhyme.

**Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.** Mawson and I had an idea this rhymed with "try a toga," but Webster labels that "rarely," and tells us to say "ky hah' ga." It is unlikely that "hah" will stick; it will either drop to "haw" or go back to "ho."

**Cuyuna, Minn.** Rhymes with "guy Luna." Accent in the middle.

# D

**Dahlonega, Ga.** Lippincott put the accent on the "nee," but my observer stresses the "lon," making the name rhyme roughly with "harmonica." He also says the first syllable is "day," but that is hard to justify unless you are one of those who start "dahlia" with "day"—as some do.

**Damar, Kans.** Rhymes with "afar."

**Dannemora, N. Y.** Accent on the "mo"; rhyme it with *Fanny-Laura*, but keep the "ee" sound as unobtrusive as possible.

**Darrouzett, Tex.** Rhymes adequately with "Sarah Brett."

**Dartmouth.** As in *Plymouth*, the *mouth* collapses into "muth."

**Decorah, Ia.** Accent on the second syllable; rhymes with "fedora," or (*W.*) *E. Borah*; named after an Indian chief whose surname was a corruption of French *De Carrie*.

**Deferiet, N. Y.** Paraphrase Milton's line in *L'Allegro*

How Faery Mab the junkets eat  
and you get "De-fairy-et de junkets."

De Kalb, Ill. "Dee kalb"—"kal" as in "Cal Coolidge."

Delano, Mont., Pa., Tenn. These are "dell' a-no," as in President Roosevelt's name. But California, home state of Hoover, sturdily refuses to climb on the bandwagon. There it rhymes with "the *Drano*."

Delhi, Colo., Ill., N. Y. Just as spelled, rhyming with "*Swell* pie." But in India it rhymes with "belly."

Del Rio, Tex. (Where the Old Spanish Trail first hits the Rio Grande.) Naturally, "ree-o"—with Mexico right across the river.

Demund, Ky. The most common version sounds perilously like "demon": "dee' mund."

De Pere, Wis. The first "dee" is not slighted, but the accent falls on the "peer." No trace of French influence left.

De Queen, Ark. This simplified spelling was adopted when it was found that the original Dutch name, *De Goeijen*, was becoming nationally famous as a tonsil-cracker. The Dutchman was one of the backers of the original Kansas City Southern Railway.

Derby. The traditional "dar" is breaking down in England, though still preferred by some authorities. As with "leftenant," the British hate to give it up. In America, "darby" is seldom heard.

Des Arc, Ark. Rhymes with "sez *Clark*."

Deslacs, N. Dak. Generally rhymes with "relax."

Desmet, Idaho. If Uncle Sam would write it the way my observer says it should be written—De Smet—there would be little argument about the pronunciation. It was the name of a Catholic missionary to the Coeur d'Alene Indians.

Des Moines, Iowa. Rhymes with "a *coin*." Railroad men tend to accent the first part, calling it "dee," but this is frowned on. (See DETROIT.)

Des Plaines, Ill. Now forget what you just learned about *Des Moines*. This rhymes with "less *brains*." It's not really a question of brains, however; rather, let us say, "less French."

Detroit, Mich. Mute the *e* and accent the second syllable. Avoid "dee' troyt."

D'Hanis, Tex. Three guesses on this one. It's an old French name, corrupted to "dee hannis."

Diehlstadt, Mo. Still a bit Germanic. Rhymes with "*steel* hat."

Dietrich, Idaho. "Dee' trick," approaching the German, but stopping short of the gargle.

Disautel, Wash. Sounds like broken English for "this hotel": "diss aw-tell'."

Dolores, Colo. Rhymes with "Oh *no*, Bess," according to Webster. But the average American

cannot be trusted to keep a full-rounded *o* before *r*. The accented syllable becomes more like "lore."

Doniphan, Mo. Sounds a good deal like "Donovan," if you substitute "f" for "v."

Donora, Pa. Put a *d* in front of "Oh Nora!"

Dony, Ky. Rhymes with "pony."

Dos Cabezas, Ariz. ("Two heads," from a curious mountain nearby having twin peaks.) Being close to Mexico, the "Dos" has a long *o*; and "Cabezas" rhymes, about, with "*abase* us."

Doucette, Tex. Keep the French: "doo sett'."

Dowagiac, Mich. Rhymes with "Oh *Ma*, back!" Last syllable is plain "Jack."

Dowell, Ill. Originally this may have expressed the pious hope, "Do well," but today the name rhymes, practically, with "fowl."

Dravosburg, Pa. (Formerly Drawsburg.) To all intents and purposes, "Dravos" rhymes with "Davis."

Du Bois. In Pennsylvania, "doo boyce'," rhymed with *voice*, is probably the best. In Indiana and Montana and Wyoming, the "doo" is more likely to be accented.

Dubuque, Iowa. "Duh biuk." Would rhyme with "a duke" if everybody would say "diuk," which everybody won't, and small wonder.

Duchesne, Utah. "Doo shane"—rhyming with "too plain" or "Touraine."



Duluth, Minn. Some of our "iu" acrobats probably say "diu liuth," heaven help them. It's just "doo looth'."

Dunbar. The Scotch emphasize the "bar" but in Pennsylvania and West Virginia the first syllable gets the accent.

Dungeness, Wash. Just "dungeon" plus "ess," and accent the "ess."

Dunnavant, Ala. Named after the Irishman (?) who supervised the construction of the tunnels on either side of the town, fifty years ago. Possibly a variant of "Donovan," which is often pronounced "Dunnavan." Just add a *t*.

Duquesne, Pa. "Doo cane," rhyming with "through *train*."

Duquoin, Ill. A majority of the residents, I am told, say "diu coin," rhyming "diu" with "few" and emphasizing the "coin." The reason it is not "doo" is that the town is fairly far south, below St. Louis.

# E

**Eastham, Mass.** In England and New England, these syllables are thought of as separate. The natives, Bolton says, would as soon think of saying "fried 'um and eggs" as "East 'um."

**Eau Claire, Wis.** If you know somebody named Clare, you're all right; just say "Oh *Clare!*"

**Ebro, Fla.** (Named after a river in Spain.) Mix up "Hebrew" and "Negro," keeping the accent on the first syllable.

**Echeta, Wyo.** (Indian for "Wild Horse," not Pidgin English for "The man is dishonest." "Ee cheat' a.")

**Ecleto, Tex.** At present, a curious mixture of Spanish and English; rhymes with "See Cato," accent on "cay."

**Edensburg, Pa.** As in "Evans," start off with a short *e*.

**Edhube, Tex.** Evidently named for "Ed Hube," whose last name rhymes with "few be" ("Will *few* be chosen?")

**Edinburg, Ind., Tex., Va.** The first syllable

rhymes with "dead" or maybe they prefer "bed" or "wed." The "burg" is pronounced as spelled, without Scotch guttural or bagpipe accompaniment.

Edisto Island, S. C. Accent the *ed* as in *pedestal*. Rhymes roughly with "(They)*fed* us so!" (Note that in ordinary, rapid speech, which is all we are concerned with in this book, short *i*, short *e*, and short *u*, when unaccented, are so similar as to be almost indistinguishable.)

Egeria, W. Va. The folks in this farming community are having so much trouble with this that I shouldn't be surprised if they changed it. My observer writes, "A farm-hand would say 'ee-jerry,' " but indicates that the rest run the gamut from "ee jeer' ee-a" (Webster's recommendation for the classical name—which meant, by the way, "back seat driver") to "ee' gree." For the present, string along with Webster.

Eifort, Ohio. Rhymes with "*die* fur't," as in the patriot's answer to the question, "Do you love your country?" "I'd *die* fur't."

Ekalaka, Mont. "Eek'a-lack-a"; sounds like part of an old "boom-a-lack-a" cheer. And is it fun to do on a typewriter!

Ekron, Ky. Must be related to Akron, Ohio, though I can't prove it. Anyway, "eck."

Elbe, Wash. The German river doesn't quite rhyme with "Shelby," but this Far West community does.

**El Cajon**, Calif. The Mexican ("chest of drawers") has been scrupulously kept: "el kâ hone'," rhyming with "smell a *bone*."

**El Centro**, Calif. Not the Castilian "th"; the same *c* as in "central."

**El Dorado**. The gilded country of mythology is generally given the Spanish "ah," but in Illinois and Kansas the name rhymes with "hell-tornado." Poe's rhyme for it was "shadow," just to be different.

**Elgin**. The watch city, in Illinois, is "el-jin," but in Texas, strangely, the Scottish hard *g* is preferred (as in "give").

**Elkader**, Iowa. Accent on the "ka"; rhymes with "Well, trader."

**Ellinger**, Tex. Soft *g* as in "danger"; accent on the "ell."

**El Paso**, Tex. "Ell pass'o"—flat *a*. Comment of a native: "'pah' only for those who have studied Spanish, and insist upon being queer." A New Englander reports: "We say 'pay-so'." But when you say that in Texas, stranger, smile.

**El Verano**, Calif. Has already largely abandoned the Mexican "ah" for the flat *a* of "piano." Probabilities are that eventually it will be "ray."

**Emaus**, Pa. "Probably 70% of the older inhabitants do not talk English, but South German"; however, the preferred version rhymes with "*tree* moss" ("aw").

**Encinal, Tex.** If I saw a friend fencing and asked him what he was doing, he might say, "Fencin', Al." That would rhyme with "Encinal."

**Encinitas, Calif.** ("Little Oaks.") Rhymes with "Fencin' *beat* us." Apparently one should know something about fencing.

**Engadine, Mich.** Accent the first syllable, and—here, I am told, the natives disagree with the brakeman—rhyme "dine" with "line." Can it be that the brakeman has heard Webster's "deen" ending for the Alpine valley after which the Michigan town was named?

**Enroughty.** (Excerpt from letter to C. K. Bolton from the Assistant Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society.) "A member of the Enroughty family inherited an estate and was to take the name Derby ('Darby'). He was called 'Darby' but signed Enroughty. The family place, Darbytown, is near Richmond. They were charcoal burners."

For the sake of those who, by some freak of intellectual honesty, cannot pronounce Enroughty "Darby," the accented "rough" rhymes with "bough."

**Entiat, Wash.** "En'tee-at."

**Enumclaw, Wash.** Rhymes with "(I've) *seen* 'em raw," according to Thorp. Webster has an idea it starts out the way "enema" does, but Washingtonians appear to prefer "ee."

**Ephrata.** In Washington, accent the "fray";

rhymes with "He delayed a (moment)." But in Pennsylvania the "eff" is accented, and both *a*'s are mute.

**Erick, Okla.** Webster says "air," but when I drove through there (literally, as I didn't even stop) the young bicyclist of whom I inquired said he "guessed it was more like *ear*"—pointing to his ear. The presumption is that either will do.

**Erlanger, Ky., N. C.** Accent on the "ur"; and the *g* is usually sung, as in "paperhanger."

**Erose, Ky.** Rhymes with "*free* dose." I don't know whether it traces its ancestry to Cupid or soil erosion.

**Escanaba, Mich.** Webster gives the *na* (accented) as "naw." But my childhood is threaded with memories of the "Es-ca-nah'ba" train. And "nah" is still right.

**Escondido, Calif.** (Means "hidden.") Like its relative in Guatemala, it sticks close to the Spanish: last two syllables are "dee'do," rhyming with the approved pronunciation of *Credo*.

**Escuela, Ariz.** Accent "skway" (long *a*) to keep the Spanish ("school"). No "squeal" yet.

**Esperance, N. Y.** (Archaic for "hope.") Squeeze it into two syllables, to make it rhyme with "*Le's* dance!"

**Estelline, Tex.** Rhymes with "*Test* a line."

Etiwanda, Calif. Rhymes with "Letta *yawned* à (few times)."

Etowah, Tenn. Rhymes with "*Pet* a ma!"

Eureka, Calif., Ill., Utah. "You *reek-a!*" as the Italian said when he encountered a skunk.

Eutaw Springs, S. C. Like "Utah," rhymes with "*few* saw."

Eyota, Minn. Separate into syllables: "ee yo' ta." Originally, it is said, an unsuccessful attempt to spell "iota," "a very small quantity."

# F

**Falfurrias, Tex.** Rhymes with "(What makes that) gal *curious*?" Observer mentions that "our Mexican people give it more Spanish sound"—whatever that may mean.

**Falmouth.** As in "Plymouth," the "mouth" lapses into "muth." The "fal" rhymes with "pal." Accent "fal."

**Faribault, Minn.** "Fairy-bo" is close enough, says the head of the English Department at the Shattuck School.

**Farina, Ill.** Rhymes with "Dinah," just as the cereal does in England, though not always in this country.

**Farisita, Colo.** Pronounced as if it were founded by the inventor of the Ferris wheel: "Ferris ee' ta," as in the question, "Will Ferris eat a piece of pie?"

**Fauquier (county, Va.)** "Faw-keer'." Those who have read *Hell on Ice* may remember that the last letter of the great-hearted doctor was addressed to his family, in *Fauquier County*.

**Fidalgo (island, Washington).** Rhymes with "Did *Al* go?"



**Findlay, Ohio.** Differs from the traditional Scottish pronunciation (which rhymes with "thinly") only in that the Ohio town does sound the *d*. Mawson is mistaken in calling for an unaccented long *a* in the last syllable.

**Flomaton, Ala.** The *Floma* rhymes with *aroma*, and the last syllable is the usual "tun." An erroneous long *a* in the middle sometimes leads to a facetious accent on "may."

**Floydada, Tex.** A boy-girl combination; just "*Floyd-Ada*," Floyd being a little more important than Ada.

**Fond du Lac, Wis.** ("Foot of the lake.") Usually accented on the "fon." Rhyme it with "on a rack."

**Forada, Minn.** "Ada" was evidently a common name for the Pioneer Woman (see FLOYDADA). The Minnesota town was named "for Ada."

**Forsyth, Mo.** My observer writes, "We are 100% on the pronunciation of *Forsyth* excepting the Presbyterian minister. . . . He accents the last syllable instead of the first one."

**Frankenmuth, Mich.** (Famous for chicken dinners.) Accent on "Frank"; and "muth" rhymes with "Ruth," except among some of the oldest residents, who are German.

**Frazee, Minn.** Narrow escape here. I thought

at first it rhymed with "crazy"; on the contrary, it rhymes perfectly with "daisy."

**Fremont.** Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin accent the "free."

**Fresno, Calif.** ("White ash tree.") Rhymes with "*sez* no." My observer writes: "should be hissed, but in actual usage it is buzzed; we Americans make such heavy sounds where possible."

**Fried, N. Dak.** This keeps the German, and stays well out of the kitchen: "freed."

**Friedens, Pa.** This is "free," too.

**Friedheim, Mo.** The German vowel sounds have been kept: "freed' hime," rhyming with "seed time."

**Friesland, Wis.** Still loyal to the German *ie*, this is "freeze-land." Then there's a *Fries* in Virginia which is also "freeze."

**Frijole, Tex.** "Free Holy," accent in the middle, mostly.

**Friona, Tex.** "Free o' na." "Frio" is almost always "free'o" in Texas. (See BOVINA.)

**Frontenac, Kans.** Like *Fond du Lac*, rhymes pretty well with "*on* a rack."

**Fyffe, Ala.** As in "fife and drum."

# G

Galata, Mont. The first and third *a*'s are mute, the second flat. Can be rhymed with "regatta," (accent in the middle).

Galion, Ohio. Like the "galleon" of old, rhymes acceptably with "rapscallion."

Gallipolis, Ohio. (O. O. McIntyre's home town.) "Gallop, police!"

Gallup, N. Mex. As on a horse.

Galveston, Tex. Has nothing to do with girls wearing vests. "Gal" gets the accent, and the rest is just "vest-un." Or rather "v'st'n."

Gambier, Ohio. Rhymes with "*sham* beer" (i. e., near-beer).

Ganado, Tex. Still close enough to the border to keep the accented "ah."

Garciasville, Tex. Approximately two whoops and a holler from the border. Therefore "gar see' us."

Geneseo, N. Y. "Jenny *see*, oh!" But Jenny's "knee" is not at all noticeable.

Gennett, Tenn. Pronounced as the girl's name is (Jeannette, or, often, Jeanette).

Genoa, Colo., Nebr. Both accent the "no." Pronounce as in this question: "Did ja *know* a fellow of that name?"

Genola, Ga. Accent on the *o*; and the *g* hard as in "go."

Genou, Mont. ("Knee.") The French has been kept; starts with the soft "zh," and rhymes with "ado."

Gera, Va. Unlike its predecessor in Germany, this is "jeer' a."

Geronimo, Ariz., Tex. Begins with a *j* sound, and rhymes pretty well with "See *Donnie* go!"

Gervais, Oreg. The newscasters had a bad time with this last summer, and small wonder (as Ransom Sherman would put it), for it's in a state of flux, as shown by its nickname, "Gravy." Apparently "Jarvis" best represents the most common rendering, and thus may become the official spelling someday.

Geuda Springs, Kans. Hard *g*, and rhymes with the last two syllables of "Bermuda."

Gila (Ariz., N. Mex.) Close enough to Mexico to be "hee' là."

Gillett. All start with the *j* sound, and none of the postoffices have a final *e*. But Texas and Wyoming accent the "ett," while Wisconsin rhymes the name with "skillet."

Gladly, W. Va. Rhymes with "lady."

Gloucester, Mass. "Glaw-ster" rather than "Glah-ster." *Glouster*, O., rhymes with "ouster," however.

Goessel, Kans. In German, *Gössel*. Most people rhyme the Kansas town with "vessel."

Goetzville, Mich. My observer calls it "Gatesville," the Poles (of whom there are many) say "Getsfeel," and the brakeman makes it "Goatsville." And "Goatsville" it will remain, to most people, until it gets its name changed.

Goffe. (Street in New Haven.) The "Regicide Judge's" name still rhymes with "doff."

Goliad, Tex. This rhymes with "Oh bedad!" (accent on the end).

Goltry, Okla. Long *o*. Rhymes with "poultry."

Gonic, N. H. Rhymes with "tonic."

Gonzales, Tex. "Gon zal'iss," rhyming with "On Alice."

Goshen, Conn., Ind., N. Y., Wyo. All long *o*. Rhymes with "ocean." I have personally investigated the Connecticut Goshen, having heard the accusation (which proved false) that folks there say "gosh." Incidentally, it is just outside Torrington, Conn., whereas Torrington, Wyo., is in Goshen County. Must be some connection.

Gotebo, Okla. Rhymes with "*throw* the snow."

Gotham. In England, rhymes with "bottom." In this country, it's a toss-up. Webster and Mawson

disagree as to whether "goth" should rhyme with "both," or be pronounced "gahth." Wisconsin prefers the latter.

Gough, S. C. Rhymes with "cough."

Graettinger, Iowa. When Hitler hears about this, there will be an angry protest. The umlaut has gone and the *g* has softened into "j": "grett' injer."

Gratiot. The accent is on the first syllable. But in Ohio say "Gray-shot," in Michigan rhyme the name with "mashie-putt," and in Wisconsin rhyme it with "*Dash* ut!" (profanity).

Greenwich. In England this is still "grin-nij," rhyming with an old pronunciation of *spinach* ("spin-nage"). The American variant of this, "grennitch," and even the English original, are still heard in up-state New York and in the old Quaker town of New Jersey, but in Greenwich, Conn., the so-called best people have not been able to stem the trend to the spelling-pronunciation: "green-witch." In New York City's Greenwich Village, the shorter form, "grennitch" is common, partly because it *is* shorter, partly because the Village is still, by fits and starts, pretty arty.

Grinnell, Iowa. Accent the second syllable; rhymes with "in . . . ." but why risk a libel suit?

Groesbeck, Tex. Rhymes with "*Dose*, heck!" as the small boy exclaimed when he saw castor oil approaching.

Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Detroit suburb.) Just

like English *gross point*. "Gross," with its derivatives such as "engross," is the only English word in "-oss" that has the long *o*.

**Gros Ventre** (Wyo.) Partly anglicized to "gro vent'r." Means "big belly."

**Groton**, Conn., Mass., N. H., N. Y. All are "grah' tun," with the possible exception of Connecticut, where "gro" is heard.

**Guadalupe** (Tex.) The Spanish is slipping: "gawd-a-loop'."

**Guage**, Ky. Pronounced just like "gauge" ("gage"), this misspelling has distressingly got itself enshrined in the Postal Guide. Even if it is the way the Scotch and Irish used to spell it, it is no longer justifiable. The wee hilly-billies have enough trouble with their spelling as it is.

**Gualala**, Calif. Approach the Indian, but at a respectful distance. "Gwah lah'la" should get you by.

**Guasti**, Calif. "Gwah' stee," rhyming with the British version of "nasty."

**Gueydan**, La. Apparently named after Don Juan: "gay Don."

**Guttenberg**, N. J. This city of 7,000 faces the situation courageously, calls that first syllable "gut," and emphasizes it.

# H

Hallowell, Maine. Webster has conferred his blessing on the somewhat peculiar local version: "*hollow* well."

Hamel, Minn. Rhymes gratifyingly with "camel."

Hamtramck, Mich. The 56,000 who live there have to choose between the difficult "tramk," in which the devil usually gets that hindmost *k*, and "trammick." The latter is winning out.

Harbinger, N. C. Like "harbinger of spring," this accents the "har" and has the soft *g* of "passenger."

Harwich, Mass. Nobody says "sandidge" for "sandwich"; pronounce "Har-wich," as spelled.

Hassayampa (Arizona). Rhymes with "Sass a grampa."

Havasupai (Ariz.) At the Grand Canyon, this is pronounced "Have a *soup*-pie."

Haverhill. Usually "hay'vrill" in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, BBC says "hay'vrill," too.

Haverstraw, N. Y. Not like "Haverhill." This *a* is flat, as in "haversack."



**Havre, Mont.** Pronounced as in this expression of self-denial, "You can *have* 'er!"

**Havre de Grace, Md.** The "Havre" is as above; the commonest rendering of "Grace" is "grass," but the long *a* is catching up with it.

**Hawaii.** Not just "Hawaiian" with the *n* chopped off. "Ah, *try* me" is the rhyme recommended. Locally, the *w* often sounds like *v*, but the folks out there like to boast that their written language represents perfectly the spoken syllables—so until they "spell it with a wee" we shall pronounce it with a *w*.

**Hawarden, Iowa.** Ruth Suckow's birthplace is "*Hay*, warden."

**Haworth, N. J.** Rhymes with "*paw* worth" as in "How much is your *paw* worth?"

**Hayti, Mo., S. Dak.** You are far from the West Indies, here: "hay," (as in barn), "tie" (as around your neck). *Haysi*, Va., rhymes with it.

**Heavener, Okla.** Long "ee," as in "I was *heavin'* 'er a line."

**Heil, N. Dak.** Rhymes with "file," as in Germany.

**Heimdal, N. Dak.** German *ei* as in "stein" and "heil."

**Heiner, Utah.** Again the German *ei*. Rhymes with "finer."

**Heise, Idaho.** The German rhymes fairly well

with *Liza*. Idahoans tend to make the second syllable "zee," though keeping the accent on "high."

**Heizer**, Kans. Again the long *i*. Rhymes with "wiser."

**Helena**, Ala., Ark., Mont., Okla. Stress the "hell" in these four states. But in Ohio and Missouri "lee" gets the emphasis.

**Helix**, Oreg. Rhymes with "Felix," (long "ee").

**Hematite**, Va. Webster allows both "hem" and "hee" for the iron ore. But everybody in the Virginia town, according to my observer, rhymes it with "*Emma* might."

**Henlopen** (Delaware). Accent in the middle. Rhymes with "when open."

**Henrico**, Va. Authorities agree that a good old Virginia rhyme for it would be "Men *like* yo'."

**Hereford**, Tex. (Deaf Smith county.) The Hereford is the red steer with white face that you see everywhere in the southwest. Webster chooses a rhyme for "*Nary* word," but the tire man there shortened the first two syllables to plain "her" (female). He sold me an inner tube that blew all to pieces, three days later, in Bardstown, Ky., where *My Old Kentucky Home* was written. Don't trust him.

**Hettinger**, N. Dak. Germany won this contest (see GRAETTINGER). "Hettinger" rhymes with "getting 'er," as in "He was *getting* 'er goat."

**Hialeah, Fla.** Means "High Prairie," in Seminole, and is pronounced the way an Italian organ-grinder would say "high lee": "high-a lee-a."

**Hiawatha, Kans., Utah, W. Va.** Like "Hialeah," starts out with a long "Hi."

**Hico, La., Tex., W. Va.** Rhymes with "*Why* go?"

**Hickory Withe, Tenn.** Usually the same as the preposition "with" (voiced). For the common noun, Webster gives you three chances: the whispered "with" (preferred), the voiced "with," and a rhyme for "blithe."

**Hidalgo, N. Mex., Tex.** Rhymes presentably with "See *Sal* go!" The mouth-full-of-potato *d* which can still be heard in Spain above the genial noises of war is not much used in this hemisphere. See MADRID.

**Hindes, Tex.** One syllable; rhymes with "finds." There's a *Hinds* County in Mississippi.

**Hitchita, Okla.** This would rhyme with *Wichita* (q.v.) if the Kansas "taw" had not been frowned on, and an attempt made to replace it with a mute *a* (as in *Kenosha*). The result was, perversely enough, that most of the natives took to saying "Hitchity."

**Hiwassee, N. C.** Both this and *Hiwasse*, Ark., must be related in some way to "Hiawatha"; all three start with "high"; and then the first two rhyme with "bossy."

**Hoboken, N. J.** Long *o*'s as in "hobo"; the major accent is on the first syllable, but the "bo" gets some attention too. Incidentally, there is a *Hobucken* in North Carolina.

**Hochatown, Okla.** I had hoped that this would prove to be the original "hot cha town." But "hochä" rhymes with "*coach* ä" ("coach ä team").

**Hochheim, Tex.** (Card from neighboring Yoakum.) This part of Texas seems to be quite a German settlement: Lindenau, Nordheim, Westhoff, Waelder, Schulenburg, Weimar. So the *heim* is "hime"; but the guttural "ch" has been purged, and the name rhymes with "*no* time."

**Hoehne, Colo.** Card from there: "You seem to have difficulty in pronunciation of this Irishman's name. I want to help you. I suggest that you follow the plural of *pony*, *ponies*; *crony*, *cronies*. It has two syllables with rough breathing accent (Greek): Ho'nes. . . ."

I hate to confess that this is all Greek to me. For one thing, the "Irishman" was probably a German. I shall have to visit this remarkable place sometime and see where they get that *s* from. Till then, let's rhyme it with "pony."

**Holstein, Nebr.** In confirmation of Webster's decision that "steen" is the "popular" pronunciation for the cow, the Nebraska town is always that way: rhyming with "*Bowl* Queen."

**Holyoke.** Colorado and Minnesota see no ob-

jection to "Holy Oak," but Massachusetts rather insists on collapsing it into two syllables: "*whole* yoke."

Honaker, Ky. Rhymes with "*stone* a cur."

Honea Path, S. C. Webster says it's just "Honey" as in hives.

Honeyoye Falls, N. Y. "Honey-oy."

Honolulu. Travelers are almost unanimous in rhyming "hon" with "John"; but the natives are sticklers for "ho," and now that newscasters have adopted it it has a brilliant future.

Hoquiam, Wash. "Ho' quee-um."

Horicon, Wis. Unlike "horizon," accents the first syllable; "Horic" rhymes with "Doric."

Horine, Mo. Long *i*; rhymes with "*more* wine."

Hoschton, Ga. The natives say "hoosh-tun"—first syllable rhyming with "push."

Houghton, Mich., N. Y., Wash. In these states, "hough" rhymes with "though": "ho't'n." In South Dakota, there seems to be some wavering toward "how," while Iowa, thinking about "cough," experiments with "hoff'tun."

Houlka, Miss. A fifty-year resident writes me that she says "Hool'ka" (first syllable rhyming with *pull*), but that "Hulky" is more common. If she doesn't know the correct historical pronunciation, nobody does.

Houma, La. As in the question, "*Who*, Ma?"

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**Housatonic** (river, New England). Rhymes with "Moose Masonic"—and if that makes sense I'm a B. P. O. E.

**Houston.** From Minnesota south to Texas (including Houstonia, Mo.) "hew" is supreme, though illogical. The English, and many Americans, prefer "hoo." In Pennsylvania and in the south-east, "how" [au] can be heard. And the *New Yorker* reports that in the metropolis it's "house-ton," though there is one subway guard who always calls out, "Hew-ston next." The *New Yorker* adds: "People who want off at House-ton Street probably just ride on by, but after all, right is right."

**Hovenweep** National Monument (Colo. and Utah). Rhymes pretty well with "rove an' creep."

**Hueneme**, Calif. Take your choice: "when'a-mee," "when Amy," "why neemy," "why namey." If the city fathers will adopt the spelling "Wild Namey," I will dedicate my next book, *Wild Names I Have Met*, to them. In the meantime, the natives keep on calling it practically everything but "hue-neem."

**Humptulips**, Wash. As spelled; accent the "too"—not "tiu," unless you can manage such monstrosities as "Stiu-debaker."

**Huron.** The discovery that this was originally accented on the second syllable helped me at long last to get the joke about "What lake are we on?" "Lake You're on," etc.

# I

Iago, Tex. This rhymes with "my Dago."

Ibapah, Utah. ("Deep waters.") This ends with the characteristic "aw." Rhymes with "*I've* a saw."

Iberville, La. According to Webster, this is "ee'ber."

Icard, N. C. Rhymes with "*High* card."

Iceledo, Ark. Approximately: "icy" as in winter, "ledo" as in "Toledo."

Ickesburg, Pa. "Ickes" rhymes understandably with "*Kick* us."

Ihlen, Minn. Long *i*; rhymes with "Hylan."

Iliiff, Colo. Rhymes with "*high* cliff."

Illinois. The French-English compromise is the preferred form: "noy" rather than "noise." The same is true of Illinois Bayou, in Arkansas.

The collegiate nickname, "Illini," rhymes with "in Sinai," or "will *I* lie?"

Ilwaco, Wash. Rhymes with "Kill *Socko*!" (assume *Socko* to be a pugilist's nickname). Or the "waco" can be pronounced "waw'co" (see *SACO*).

Ima, N. Mex. Long *i*, as in "*I'm* a white man."

Imogene, Iowa. "Immo-jean," rhyming pretty well with "limousine" (first syllable accent allowable).

Inger, Minn. Rhymes with "finger," mostly. And in regard to what the brakeman says, my observer writes cheerfully, "As soon as we get our railroad, we'll let you know."

Ingomar, Miss., Ohio. (Was an Indian chief celebrated in a German play.) "Ing-go-mar." Accent first and third, chiefly first.

Interlaken, Mass., N. Y. In Swiss it's "lock" but in American it's usually "lake." Accent first and third.

Iowa. A century of controversy boils down to something like this: the natives like "I'o-way" and sing about it ("There's where the tall corn grows"); but we outsiders are really expected to say it somewhat as in the sentence, "*I* owe a dollar." All agree that the accent is on the first syllable.

Ipswich, Mass. "Ipsidge" is still heard. But see HARWICH.

Iraan, Tex. Rhymes all right with "Why *Don!*" The man who gave this hamlet the official name for Persia had a bit more imagination than his neighbors; the only other settlement within a radius of twenty miles is named "Red Barn."

Iroquois, Ill., N. Y. The accent wavers from third to first, brakemen and announcers always find-



ing it easier to begin loud and trickle off. But the main thing is the "kwoy." Don't sound the s.

Isaban, W. Va. (Not far from Horsepen, Fish-trap, and Mouthcard.) Rhymes with "'Tis a man!"

Iselin, N. J., Pa. Both rhyme satisfactorily with "sizzlin'."

Ishpeming, Mich. First syllable accent. Rhymes with "*Dish* the king."

Isle au Haut, Maine. When I was there a few years ago, I understood that everybody said "Eel-o-ho." But now Bolton assures me that the local version is "Ill o' *Holt*," which would seem to mean sick of me. I prefer the other, for personal as well as linguistic reasons.

Isle La Motte, Vt. Near the Quebec border; but the French "eel" has not prevailed. Rhyme the name with "*smile* a lot."

Isleta, N. Mex. Webster's version (accenting "lay") is a little more Mexican than the accepted local pronunciation: "iss let'tà."

Islip, Long Island. Just as in the well-known chant, "I slip, you slip, he slips."

Issaquah, Wash. Comes perilously close to rhyming with "*Kiss* a squaw."

Issaquena (Miss.) Accent on "queen." Contrasts nicely with *Assawoman* (Va.) in regard to degree of royalty.

Istrouma, La. Sounds like a small boy trying

to convince his mother that he's not lying: "*iss true*, ma."

**Itasca** (Minn.) The source of the Mississippi, and the cutter that made a valiant search for Amelia Earhart, both rhyme with "I *ask* *à* (favor)." And I don't mean "ahsk."

**Itawamba** (county, Miss.) "Itta" as in baby talk; "Wamba" as in *Ivanhoe* (the jester); i.e., the "wam" rhymes with "Tom."

**Iuka**, Kans., Miss. Rhymes with "My yoo'ka" as in "My ukulele."

**Izard** (county, Ark.) Rhymes with "gizzard."

**Izee**, Oreg. Just the letters "I. Z." (name of a ranch), equally accented.

# J

**Jaite, Ohio.** Named for Mr. Jaite (originally *Yaite*) who had a paper mill and whose nationality is as yet a mystery, the place now rhymes with "fate." Take it or leave it.

**Jamul, Calif.** Mexican influence is strong in San Diego County: "ha mool'," rhyming with "a *pool*."

**Jarbalo, Kans.** Sounds a good deal like a two-word description of an earthquake: "*jar* below."

**Jere, W. Va.** Refreshingly, just "Jerry." I suppose somebody named "Jeremiah" got tired of it all.

**Jicarilla, N. Mex.** Though 170 miles from the border, this "little chocolate-cup" is off the beaten track, and its Mexican *j* has not been "touristified." Say "hicka-ree-ya."

**Job, W. Va.** Not a monument to a social phenomenon apparently becoming extinct. This Job is from the Bible, and rhymes with "globe."

**Jochin, W. Va.** Joking aside, it's "jokin'."

**Joffre, Pa.** This calls for AEF French, not Parisian. Resembles "Jeffrey," except that you begin with "Jaw" instead of "Jeff."

**Joliet, Ill.** (Excerpts from a long and emphatic letter written me by the head of the high school Eng-

lish Department) "Practically every citizen of six months' standing pronounces it with the long *o*. We of the city know the 'outsider' by his pronunciation of 'Jolly-et.' Railroad officials are either ignorant or reprehensible if they fail to instruct their brakemen and train callers. . . . Our annoyance at any one mispronouncing Joliet turns to resentment when that one is a railroad brakeman or train caller." And this leads us to make the modest suggestion that all such employees be required by law to possess a copy of this book.

**Joralemon** (street, Brooklyn). Accent "rah." Rhymes acceptably with "No Solomon."

**Jordan**. In Kentucky and Virginia, and even as far north as Noble County, Ohio, this is usually "jurd' en."

**Joseco**, Nev. "Ho say' co," they tell me. But you will be understood if you say "Jo see'co."

**Juab** (county, Utah). Two syllables: "joo' ab."

**Juan**, Ky. Economic royalists and other slickers may try to put this all into one syllable ("hwan") or even try to hawk up a Spanish *j*, but us mountaineers rhyme it with "*true* one," the way Lord Byron did.

**Juanita**, N. Dak. "You and I know" that this is usually "wà nee' tà"—and North Dakota is no exception. This is included because I couldn't find the name *Juanita* anywhere in the big *Webster*.

**Juniata** (Pa.) Rhymes with "Mooney *at* a (party)."

# K

**Kaaterskill** (creek, Catskills). Originally "kah," now usually "kaw"—including the boys' camp of that name, in southern Vermont.

**Kahlotus**, Wash. Accent the "lo."

**Kalama**, Wash. Sounds like the first three syllables of "calamity."

**Kalamazoo**, Mich. For those unfamiliar with the slogan, "Kalamazoo, Direct to You"—this rhymes, syllable by syllable, with "Sal, à canoe!" Accent on the *zoo*.

**Kalispell**, Mont. Rhymes, raggedly, with "pal à spell." Accent either first or third.

**Kanaranzi**, Minn. Rhymes with "fan a *pansy*."

**Kanawha**. Whether in the Appalachians, Iowa, or Texas, the correct accent is on the "naw": "kà naw' wah," rhyming with "a *straw*, Ma!"

**Kandiyohi**, Minn. Rhymes with "(Why is) Mandy *so* shy?" (Webster has something different for that last syllable, but my Kandiyohi correspondent is perfectly positive about the longness of that last *i*.)

**Kankakee**, Ill. Rhymes with "gang agree."

**Kanorado**, Kans. (Where U. S. 24 crosses the Kansas-Colorado line.) One resident says the accented syllable is "rah." But the chances are that if you say "rad" in *Colorado* (q.v.) you will say it here too.

**Kanosh**, Utah. Rhymes with "M' Gosh!"

**Kapowsin**, Wash. Rhymes with "a dousin'" (as with a bucket of water). Emphasize the "pow."

**Karlsruhe**, N. Dak. The final syllable of the German has been chopped off. Just "*Karl's* Roo."

**Karlstad**, Minn. Accent the first syllable; and "stad" rhymes with "dad."

**Katahdin** (Maine). Rhymes with "(His head was) à-noddin'."

**Katrine**, Va. Unlike the Scotch lake, this rhymes with "machine."

**Kaweah**, Calif. Best usage is, "kà wee' ah."

**Kearney**. Whether spelled this way, in Missouri, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania, or "ny," in New Jersey, this rhymes with "blarney."

**Kearsarge**. This "kear" is not so queer. The name rhymes with "*here*, sarge," as they don't say at West Point when the roll is called.

**Keating**, Pa. Bolton indicates that this rhymes with "hating."

**Keechi**, Tex. (An Indian tribe.) Rhymes with "*each* eye."

**Keewatin**, Minn. Rhymes with "He *fought* in (the war)."

**Kenduskeag**, Me. The last syllable is as in hardware stores and breweries: "keg." Accent on "duss." Earlier spellings for it have been *Kadeskit* and *Condeskeag*. (See AMOSKEAG.)

**Keokuk**, Iowa. Rhymes adequately with "*see* à duck."

**Keshena**, Wis. Rhymes acceptably with "Galena." Emphasize "she."

**Kewanee**, Ill. Is pronounced as its Wisconsin relative, *Kewaunee*, is spelled—accent on the "waw."

**Keweenaw**, Mich. Rhymes with "*see* me draw."

**Keyser**, W. Va. Like *Keiser*, Ark., *Keysor*, Colo., and *Kaiser* Bill, this rhymes with "miser."

**Kiamichi**, Okla. Not Japanese, but Indian. Rhymes roughly with "try a fishy."

**Kila**, Mont. Rhymes with "Delilah" (long *i*, accented).

**Kiomatia**, Tex. Rhymes with "Try a *facial*," if you'll be good enough to forget the *l*.

**Kiowa**, Okla. The Oklahoma drawl makes this sound a good deal like a rhyme for "*My maw*." However, if the drawl comes hard, pronounce this like "Iowa" with a *k* in front of it.

**Kinard**, Fla. Though the name looks to be related to "Cunard," it rhymes with "*Dine* hard."

**Kinde**, Mich. Rhymes with "Lindy."

Kineo, Maine. Rhyme "kin-e" with "skinny," and then say "Oh."

Kinzua, Oreg., Pa. The two communities agree surprisingly well, that the final *a* usually has no part in the proceedings, and that the whole is two syllables, rhyming with "*Tin's a* (metal)."

Kissee Mills, Mo. Accent on the "see."

Kissimmee, Fla. No luck. This is accented on the "sim."

Kittanning, Pa. Had hoped against hope that it would be "kitten-ing," because of the potential wise-crack—but the emphasis is on the "tan," following the double-consonant rule.

Kittitas, Wash.

If you've never been to Kittitas  
Things have reached a pretty pass.

Kiva, Mich. Rhymes with "Eva."

Klamath Falls, Oreg. This rhymes with "mammoth."

Klein, Mont. ("Little.") Rhymes with "fine."

Klickitat, Wash. Just as spelled. Rhymes pretty well with "pitty-pat" or "kitty-cat."

Knifley, Ky. "Niff-ly," rhyming with "stiffly."

Knippa, Tex. When a mass murder was committed near here, the newscasters took chances. I stopped at a Knippa filling station, and interrupted an informal boxing match long enough to learn that the *k* is pronounced.



**Knoke**, Iowa. Pronounce the *k*. And rhyme the "noke" with "smoke."

**Koch Ridge**, Ark. Apparently of German extraction; the German guttural is preferred, but most people say "Coke."

**Kokomo**, Ind. Three long *o*'s, accent on the first. Even the brakemen ("If one could understand a brakeman!" exclaims my observer) do it this way.

**Koosharem**, Utah. The accented "share" rhymes with "fare."

**Kootenay**. (Also *Kootenai*, Idaho.) Rhymes not badly with "*Hoot* away."

**Kosciusko**. Outside of Poland—i.e., in Australia, Indiana, and Mississippi—this has been anglicized to, approximately, "cossy-usko," rhyming with "Ma, see *bus* go." There's a story about a Brooklyn policeman who found a dead horse on Kosciusko Street, and couldn't phone headquarters about it until he had dragged the carcass over to a street with a pronounceable name.

# L

Lachine, Mich. Exactly parallel with "machine."

La Crosse, Wis. Just put an *l* in front of "across."

Lac Vieux Desert (Mich. and Wis.) According to a letter from President Ellis of the Wisconsin-Michigan Lumber Company, this is "Lac Vo Desar," rhyming with "Mac, row me far." Apparently an American variation of the French-Canadian corruption. Obviously, this does not exhaust the possibilities.

La Cygne, Kans. ("The Swan.") Parallels *Racine* (q.v.), even to the long *a* customarily used by brakemen to add resonance and dignity.

Lafayette. You probably pronounce this "laffy-yet," or thereabouts; but in Alabama and Georgia the accent comes on the "fay," while in Mississippi and Louisiana you may hear "lay-fay-et." The clerk at the LaFayette Hotel in Fayetteville, N. C., said that it should be accented on the "laff," but that "lots get it wrong." I present him, not as an authority, but as a material witness.

La Follette, Tenn. Named for its founder, a cousin of Senator Bob the Elder, it correctly accents

the "foll." The French Canadian lumberjacks who formed much of Old Bob's early support in Wisconsin accented the "ette," of course, but their children have learned better.

**La Fox, Ill.** I understand that this *la* is as in "Oo la la." But see LA PLACE.

**La Grange, Ill.** In conversation, rhymes with "arrange." Orators and announcers emphasize the *la* more. It is not a question of correctness, but one of sonority.

**La Habra, Calif.** Accent the "hah." The first and last *a*'s are less important.

**Laing, W. Va.** Rhymes with "slang."

**La Jolla, Calif.** Parkyakakas had trouble with the *J* of "Jolson," after being painstakingly instructed in the mysteries of "La Jolla" ("hoy' ah"). New Mexica has a *La Joya*, also pronounced "hoy ah."

**La Junta, Colo.** ("Junction" of two branches of the Santa Fe: the one from Delhi and Wormington, and the one from Manzanola and Swink.) My observer, who sends in "Hun" for that first syllable, differs with Webster, whose "Hoon" rhymes with "spoon." It is devoutly to be hoped that an agreement is reached before some public-spirited citizen gets the name changed to Swink Junction. In the meantime, say "Hunt-a" if you want to be understood in Colorado.

**Lake Cicott, Ind.**

The brakeman, I'm told, hollers "*Seek-ut*"  
 And that's the way *some* others speak-ut.  
 But most of the natives like "*Sy-kut*,"  
 So better say "*Sy-kut*" and like-ut.

**Lake Mahopac, N. Y.** Not settled yet; but what you hear most is a rhyme for "*Dago Jack*," accent on the first syllable, the *h* unnoticeable.

**Lakenan, Mo.** This illustrates an unfortunate tendency among our postoffice pundits. This is not "*la-kee'nan*"—don't be ridiculous—it's just "*Lake Nan*." Or look at these: *Loneash*, *Lucernemines*, *Mineralking* (especially after you've been looking at *Rockawalking*). Why not two words, Mr. Farley?

**Lake Nebagamon, Wis.** ("*Hunting-with-fire-by-night*.") But for the final *d*, this rhymes with "*the vagabond*."

**Lake Ronkonkoma, Long Island.** Accent the "*konk*." Rhymes with "*on bronco, Ma*," except for that last *o*, which is usually squashed into muteness.

**Lamar, Colo.** Rhymes with "*afar*."

**La Mesa.** In California and New Mexico the Mexican "*may*" is kept. But in Texas, not only is the spelling "*Lamesa*" official, but also the "*mee*" pronunciation, despite the protests of "*the ladies' clubs*."

*Mesa*, and *Redmesa*, Colo., are "*may*," and *Mesilla*, Ariz., (little mesa) is "*may see ya*."

**Lamoille, Minn.** Rhymes with "*à boil*."

**Lamoni, Iowa.** My observer reports that the majority disagrees with Webster. The Italian influence is gone. Rhyme the name with "*a stone eye.*"

**Lampasas, Tex.** "*Lamb pass us,*" with a couple of good flat *a*'s.

**Lampeter, Pa.** (In the Amish country.) The belief that this derived from a certain "*lame Peter*" was jolted by the discovery that there was a village of Lampeter in Wales, and the realization that early settlers of that part of Pennsylvania were Welshmen (just east of town there lie the "*Welsh Mountains*"). Anyway, the accent is on the first syllable. Call it "*Lam Peter.*"

**Lanark, Ill.** Accented on the first syllable as it is in Scotland; rhymes with the first two syllables of "*anarchy.*"

**Lancaster.** Lean as lightly as possible on the middle syllable. It's practically "*lank stir.*"

**Langeloth, Pa.** Two syllables: "*lang'lahth.*"

**Langlois, Oreg.** Rhymes with "*Hang boys!*" (benevolent exclamation sometimes heard around Hallowe'en time).

**L'Anse, Mich.** Called "*lahnce*" by most of the citizens, says my observer. However, a good few rhyme it with "*pants.*"

**Lapine, Oreg.** Out of line with some similar names, this rhymes with "*Ah, Kline*" (long *i*).

**La Place.** In Louisiana, naturally enough, the

French "plass" (as in "placid") has been kept. But in Illinois the Anglo-Saxon conquest, not content with rhyming "Place" and "race," is bent on butchering the first *a*. Yes, "lay" is common.

Lapush, Wash. Should be two words, as it is a corruption of French *la bouche*, the mouth (of the river). The *la* is as in music, the "push" is as in the subway in rush hour.

Laquin, Pa. This might almost as well be spelled "Lake Wynn." The brakeman is more likely than the townspeople to accent the first syllable.

Laredo. Texas keeps the Spanish *e*, making the name rhyme raggedly with "potato." But Missouri says "ree."

Las Cruces, N. Mex. It is hard to give a rhyme for "las" without entering into controversy as to the proper American pronunciation of "grass" and "loss"; anyway, "lah-ss" represents it. As for *Cruces*, though the town is only an hour from the Rio Grande, those who rhyme it with "goose chase" are outnumbered by those who think "true, sis" a good enough rhyme.

Las Vegas, N. Mex. *Vegas* is pronounced "vagues'," as in "I haven't the *vagues*' idea."

Latah, Idaho, Wash. Rhymes with "Say, paw!" (the "aw" of *Utah*).

Lauada, N. C. "Law Ada," with the accent on the "A." (See FORADA.)

**Lauderdale.** (Counties in three southern states; and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) As in Harry *Lauder's* case, the rhyme is with "*broader*." The German [au] is incorrect—except in Pennsylvania.

**Lavaca, Tex.** As in *El Paso*, the Mexican "ah" is losing out to the flat *a*. This usually rhymes with "à sack o' (flour)."

**La Veta, Colo.** (A pass here, at 9,300 feet.) This is not an attempt to spell the Spanish word for "life" (which is *vida*) more phonetically. On the contrary, it is the word for "vein," and in Spanish is "vay' ta." But in spite of its nearness to the New Mexican border it is now called "vee' ta."

**Lavina, Mont.** Rhymes with "à Dinah."

**Lead, S. Dak.** Rhymes with "bead," because it refers not to the metal but to a lode or vein; specifically, "a channel of auriferous gravel" (Webster).

**Leahy, Wash.** The *h* is pronounced, the whole rhyming with "maybe."

**Lebam, Wash.** Rhymes with "the clam!"

**Lechmere** (square in Boston). "Leech'meer." Bolton says, "Even the street-car conductors get it right."

**Lederach, Pa.** Americanize to "*Led* rock."

**Legerwood, N. C.** Might as well have been "ledger."

**Lehman, Pa., Tex.** Like Governor *Lehman* and

the *Lehman* Caves in Nevada, both of these are "lee' man."

**Leicester, Mass.**

I once knew a half-wit named Leicester  
Who thought himself quite a young jeicester.

He blew up a school

And said, "April Fool!"—

His conscience will soon start to feicester.

**Leigh, Nebr.** Same as "Lee."

**Leipsic, Ohio.** Pronounced "*lip* sick." Roll  
your own wise-crack.

**Leiter, Wyo.** (And Leiters Ford, Ind.) German  
*ei*. Just like "lighter."

**Leith, N. Dak., Ohio.** The Scotch *ei* is "ee."  
Rhyme this with "Keith."

**Lemert, Ohio.** The "lem" is accented and  
rhymes with "stem."

**Lemhi, Idaho.** "Lem' high." Rhymes with  
"*Clem*, try."

**Lemmon, S. Dak.** Yes, it's "lemon." So what?

**Lemoore, Calif.** Named for Dr. Lee Moore,  
but not pronounced that way. It rhymes with "the  
*door*"—and don't spend any more time on the *e* than  
you have to.

**Lenapah, Okla.** Like "Omaha" and "Wauke-  
sha," this ends in "aw." Rhymes with "*Glenna*  
Shaw."

**Lenarue, Ky.** As in the previous name, the first



syllable is accented; and the first two usually rhyme with "Glenna."

**Lenoir City, Tenn.** Like "Lenore," rhymes with "the *door*."

**Leominster, Mass.** Though the British squeeze this into two syllables, to sound like "lem-ster," in New England it is usually "*lemon*-stir," like some fantastic new name for lemonade.

**Leoneth, Minn.** A combination of "Leonidas" and "Eveleth," (neighboring town); hence accented on a flat "on." The town would properly have been called "Leonidas" because of the Leonidas mine there; but the postal authorities objected on the ground that there was a Leonidas in Michigan. So the folks in Minnesota keep on calling their town "Leonidas" as if nothing had happened.

**Les Cheneaux** (islands in Lake Huron). Means "The Oaks" but is very frequently referred to as "The Snows"—a beautiful example of a phonetic "translation." Those who don't call it this, or "Snow Islands," generally aim at the French: something like "lay sh-no."

**Le Sueur, Minn.** "Best usage" approximates the French—but inasmuch as it means "sweat" why bother? It is commonly anglicized to rhyme with "the brewer."

**Leupp, Ariz.** "Loop," rhyming with "scoop."

**Levan, Utah.** Rhymes with "the *man*." This

is about the way the great Garry, Princeton football hero, pronounced his name.

Levant, Kans. Rhymes with "the *plant*."

Levesque, Ark. (Site of a large refugee camp, in the 1937 Mississippi flood.) Rhymes with "the *desk*."

Leyden. New York rhymes this with "Dryden," as in Holland and in physics laboratories. But in North Dakota everybody says "lay."

Liebenthal, Kans. Straight German: "lee' bentahl."

Liege, Mo. Rhymes with "siege."

Ligonier, Pa. Nothing to do with the American Legion, though it does rhyme pretty decently with "brigadier."

Lima, N. Y., Ohio. Rhymes with "I'm à" as in "I'm a wreck." But not in Peru.

Linary, Tenn. Rhymes acceptably with "finery."

Llano, Tex. Fully 250 miles from the border (by any sort of decent roads), this isn't even "lah' no" any longer. It now rhymes with "*can-o*" as in "can-opener."

Webster says that the *Llano Estacado* ("Staked Plain"), which lies, in a general way, between Roswell, N. Mex., and Lubbock, Tex., is "lah'no ess tah kah' do."

Locklies, Va. As if the man's name were Lockly

("lock'lee") and you simply had added an apostrophe-and-s.

Lodi, Calif., N. J., Ohio. Though a descendant of Lodi, Italy, this rhymes with "so high" in American.

Loesch, Mont. German-Americans with umlauts in their names have a real problem on their hands. Look at *Loeb* for *Löwe*. As for the not uncommon German name, *Lösch*, in this country it has been pronounced "laysh," "losh" (long o), "lesh," and "lush." Montana has chosen the last. As in "luscious."

Lonaconing, Md. Rhymes with "Jonah moaning," and is affectionately known, locally, as "Coney."

Loneash, Va. "Lone Ash" would be clearer. See LAKENAN.

Loogootee, Ind. Created, in 1858, out of two names, Engineer Low of the B. & O., and Squire Gootee (rhyming with *throaty*), the whole name is pronounced "lo go' tee."

Lookeba, Okla. My observer would rhyme it with "Oh see, Ma!" but I imagine that the analogy with "look" must be making itself felt. The main thing is: accent the "kee."

Los Angeles, Calif. L. A.'s leading daily continues to advocate a "Spanish" pronunciation which it represents as follows: "Loce Ahng-hail-ais." And a Boston paper snickers: "We still do not know how

to pronounce it. But then inlanders tell us that Bostonians do not know how to pronounce *Boston*."

A Los Angeles librarian writes me that people there, almost without exception, when asked about it, reply, "Well, I pronounce it 'Los Anjelles' but I know that's not right." The town is largely composed of Easterners who pronounce it any number of ways. The majority, however, according to my observer, say "Los Anjelles." Personally, she follows Charles Fletcher Lummis's recommendation in a poetic appeal that the "*g* shall not be jellified." Here, slightly paraphrased, is his conclusion:

*O* long, *g* hard, and rhyme with "Yes"—  
That's how to say "Loce Ang-el-ess."

I have tried valiantly to rhyme "los" with "dose," but am more and more convinced that it is high-brow and unusual. The hard *g* and the rhyme with "Yes" are, on the other hand, often heard and are hereby advocated.

Evidently "Loss" is not unanimously approved as a nickname, "L. A." being much easier and safer to say.

Losantville, Ind. Accent on "sant." Rhymes with "Go *plant*, Bill."

Los Gatos, Calif. The San Francisco area is hundreds of miles from Mexico, so this rhymes with "boss *sat* us"—and I hope you can make more sense out of that than I can.

Los Lunas, N. Mex. What looks like a mascu-

line article with a feminine noun is explained by the fact that reference is to "the Lunas"; i.e., Mr. and Mrs. Luna and the little loons. It is usually pronounced "lahss loon-us."

**Los Molinos, Calif.** (Named after the old flour mills along the Sacramento River.) In *Molinos*, keep the Spanish: both the *o*'s long, and the accented *i* like "ee." But "loss" has largely supplanted the "los" that rhymed with "dose."

**Los Olivos, Calif.** Again the Spanish "ee," accented. But the "los" is commonly "loss."

**Lostant, Ill.** (Named after the Countess of L'Ostant, wife of a French minister to the United States.) Just "lost ant"—if ants ever do get lost.

**Louin, Miss.** Rhymes with *Bruin*.

**Louisburg, N. C.** "Lewis" (pronounce the *s*). The same with Louisburg Square, in Boston.

**Louisiana.** All agree that "an" gets the principal accent. But a battle rages over whether "loo" or "ee" gets the secondary. The feeling is that "loozy Anna" expresses the local twist, as in the "Oh Suzanna" song, while "loo ee' etc." goes best in Tin Pan Alley lyrics.

**Louisville.** In Georgia and Nebraska, the *s* is pronounced; but the better-known Louisville of Kentucky is either "louie-vil" or "loo-à-vil" (the latter unquestionably to be attributed to the Southern drawl).

Loup City, Nebr. Thinking, no doubt, of "group" and "soup," with which it rhymes, my observer remarked, "There's no way of mispronouncing it that I know of." This illustrates perfectly the reason many communities don't bother to publicize their own pronunciation. But the fact is that "Loup" might be "loo," on the "Sioux" analogy, or it might follow the analogy of "loud" and "lout."

Lowrane, Mont. Rhymes with "no *pain*."

Lowville, N. Y. But, just to be aggravating, this first syllable rhymes with "cow."

Lucia, Calif. (Near San Jose.) The Italians sneeze at this point; but Californians give this a Spanish slant: "loo see' à."

Ludowici, Ga. (Connected, no doubt, with *Ludovico*, Italian for "Louis.") Rhymes with "You go, sissy." Accent first and third.

Luebbering, Mo. "Luebber" rhymes with "goober" (peanut). Accent "loo."

Luling, Tex. The accent is on the first syllable, all right. But Webster makes it "liu" instead of "loo," whereas in the neighboring state of New Mexico he encourages us to pronounce *Luna* "loo' na." The British have become resigned to "loo" in words like "alluring" and "lunatic"—why shouldn't we?

Lurich, Va. The most common rendering of this

is "loor' ick," paralleling the correct anglicization of *Zurich*, Switzerland.

**Lycoming.** In New York, says my observer, the accented syllable is "ko," whereas Webster gives it as "kah" for Pennsylvania, almost as if it were, "I feel a *lie coming* on."

**Lyoth, Calif.** Rhymes not badly with "pious" if you lisp.

**Lytle, Tex.** Some of the Lytle family still live in this suburb of San Antonio. It rhymes with "title."

# M

**McCrea**, La. As in "McLean," the "ea" is sounded long *a*. The name rhymes with "away."

**McLeod**, Minn., Tex. The Scotch "eo" is like "ou." Say "Mc Loud."

**Mabelle**, Tex. Curiously enough, just what you would expect: "may *bell*."

**Machens**, Mo. Rhymes with "blackens."

**Machias**, Maine, N. Y., Wash. Though widely separated, these are in excellent agreement, that the "ch" is sneezed, the whole rhyming with "*à bias*."

**Machipongo**, Va. Rhymes with "scratchy Congo," reminding us of the time the missionaries sent red-flannels to Africa.

**Mackay**, Tex. A first-syllable accent, on "Mack," is preferred; the rhyme is with *lackey*.

**Mackinac**. According to the authorities, this Indian name may be spelled either "nac" or "naw," but must be pronounced "naw." However, a recent visitor informs me that on the Island the natives insist on "nack." There is a *Mekinock* in North Dakota which may be related. It rhymes with "*wreck à clock*."



**Macomb**, Ill., Mich. "M' comb," as in "Hand me m' *comb*," is now approved. The "coom" version is still heard, especially in folks' names.

**Madoc**, Mont. Rhymes with "haddock."

**Madrid**, Iowa, Maine. Not content with accenting Canton and Berlin on the first syllable, Americans accent this on the "Mad," making it almost "*Mad* rud." The Spanish resembles "ma-thrith" (voiced).

**Maes**, N. Mex. Forget your Spanish for the moment. This town belonged to Mae somebody.

**Mahanoy City**, Pa. This is evolving from an Irish "mah-hah-noy" to an American version compounded chiefly of long *a*'s. But for the present it is usually accented on the first syllable and rhymed with "*Ah*, à boy!"

**Mahtomedi**, Minn. Rhymes with "Otto, *need* I?"

**Mahtowa**, Minn. Again the "aw" ending when the accent is on the first syllable; rhymes with "*Bah*, no straw!"

**Makemie**, Va. Nothing defiant or seductive about this. Indications are that it rhymes with "ya lemme" as in "Won't ya lemme do it?" Accent in the middle.

**Makinen**, Minn. Accent on "Mack." Rhymes fairly well with "*backin'* in" ("I was *backin'* in to the garage"), only end with "en" rather than "in."

**Makoti, N. Dak.** Rhymes with "Dakotee," if you pronounce "Dakota" that way. Don't.

**Malad City, Idaho.** Does not rhyme with a lettuce-and-tomato. Think of "Yo-ho, m'lad, yo-ho!"

**Malaga, Ky., N. J., N. Mex.** Tin Pan Alley would probably rhyme this with "Gallagher"; anyway, the accent is on the first syllable, giving us a rhyme for "analogous," if you will knock the "an" off the front and the *s* off the back.

**Malden, Mass., Mo.** The "al" is "awl," as in "Alden" and "Walden."

**Malesus, Tenn.** Accent on the "lee." Rhymes, a bit raggedly, with "à thesis."

**Malheur, Ore.** ("Evil hour." And Calamity Creek flows into the Malheur River.) Webster says "mà loor'," the President of the Woman's Club "mal' your," and most people "mal' hur." In all seriousness, no county should be branded with a name that is not only inauspicious but unpronounceable. My modest suggestion—and it's a very good one—is that they change the name to Vale County, *Vale* being the present county-seat, and there being no other Vale County in the entire nation.

**Malin, Oreg.** Rhymes with "akin" and "chagrín."

**Malo, Wash.** Rhymes with "Stay low" ("Get low and *stay* low!")

**Malpais.** This is the southwestern equivalent of

"Bad Lands," further north. There is no postoffice of that name (though there is a *Malpie*, N. Mex.) but it is frequently used; for instance, the Malpais Restaurant in Carrizozo. In ordinary speech it rhymes with "*Al Price*."

Malung, Minn. As in "*M' lung* is affected."

Mamaroneck, N. Y. This name does *not* derive from the remark of a man whose mare had lost many close races: "Give m' *mare* a neck as long as the rest of them and she'd win." However, that is the approximate pronunciation. (Pronounce the accented syllable "*ma*" as in *mat* if you must.)

Manasquan, N. J. Rhymes with "*ban* upon," as in "a *ban* upon smoking."

Manawa, Wis. Rhymes with "*plan* a law"; sounds almost like "man o' war" in darky dialect.

Manchac, La. Just "*man* shack"—though there's more to the place than that.

Manchester, Iowa. In New England, this is more like "man'ch' st'r," "Chester" being slighted. But in Iowa, think of "Be a *man*, Chester."

Manes, Mo. Rhymes passably with "*train* us."

Manheim, Pa., W. Va. Still part German: rhymes with "*tan* time" (i.e., summer).

Manistee, Mich. Like "Tennessee," accents the last syllable.

Manistique, Mich. Rhymes, after a fashion, with "*fan à Greek*."

Manitowoc, Wis. Accent first and last; sounds like "man at a walk." With the appropriate substitution, *Manitowish*, Wis., is the same.

Mankato, Minn. An older dictionary gives "kah" for the accented syllable, but the residents rhyme "kato" with "potato."

Manomet, Mass. This emphasizes the "man."

Manor, Pa. Almost like "manner." But in Georgia it rhymes with "Gaynor."

Manteca, Calif. ("Butter.") Has abandoned the Spanish. Rhymes with "can *peek* a (while)."

Manti, Utah. As in the Indian's remark, "*Man* tie, woman untie."

Mantua, Ohio. Rhymes with "*Grant* you à," as in "*Grant* you a request," though doubtless "*Manchaway*" can be heard above the clank of skilfully tossed horseshoes, down by the firehouse. (See NASHUA.)

Manzanita, Oreg. (Also Manzanita Lake, Calif.) Just for a change, this is the Little Apple. The Spanish accent on the "nee" has been kept, as in the girl's name, "Anita," but the *z* is usually pronounced "z" and not "s."

Maquoketa, Iowa. For one reason or another, the accented syllable is usually "ko" rather than "quo." The name rhymes with "à *poke* at à," as in "Take a *poke* at a man."

Marais des Cygnes, Kans. ("Swan Swamp.")

Usually "Merrida Zeen," to rhyme with "spare à machine" (the *-ais* being converted into an "uh" that can be represented by almost any mute vowel).

**Marana, Ariz.** (From a Spanish word for shrub or thicket.) Now usually "Ma *ran à*," as in "Ma *ran a* mile."

**Maria.** Anna Maria, Fla., Maria Stein, Ohio, (*Stein* rhymes with *fine*), and Marias River, Mont., all use the accented long *i* that is characteristically American. Even *Marial*, Oreg., rhymes with "*à trial*."

**Markesan, Wis.** Accent "mark." Except for the midwestern *r*, this resembles *moccasin*.

**Mascoutah, Ill.** A Boston child with a scooter would refer to it as "m' scoot-a." Accent the "koo."

**Mashoes, N. C.** "I done los' ma *shoes*!" said the darky.

**Massaponax, Va.** Accent *pon*. It seems the slaves looked everywhere for the ax, until it was finally discovered that massa was sitting on it. Or maybe this is just another way of spelling *Nassawadox*.

**Massillon, Ohio.** First syllable gets the accent in spite of the double *l*. Rhymes with "*castle on*," unless life seems too short, in which case the name can be shortened in various ways.

**Matagorda, Tex.** Over 200 miles from the border, this no longer starts with "mah." The name

rhymes with "cat afford à," as in, "Can a cat afford a look at a king?"

**Matteawan** (asylum, N. Y.) There are Matawans in Minnesota and New Jersey, a Matewan in West Virginia, and a Mattawan in Michigan. And they all, like *Matteawan*, rhyme with "sat upon." How do you suppose that unhappy *e* got into *Matteawan*?

**Mauch Chunk**, Pa. "Mock chunk" represents it, but the sound wavers between "mahk" and "mawk."

**Maumee**, Ohio. Rhymes with "Aw gee!"

**Mauna Loa**, **Mauna Kea** (Hawaii).

Far up on *Mauna Loa*

A dago foun' a *boa*

All stained a "brown-a gray-a"

With ash from *Mauna Kea*.

**Mavie**, Minn. Rhymes with "navy."

**Maza**, N. Dak. Rhymes with "Gaze a (while)."

**Mazama**, Wash. Rhymes with "pajama"—if you pronounce that correctly ("pâ jah' ma").

**Meagher** (county, Mont.) Neither "meager" (Mawson) nor "may-er" (Phyfe) nor "mah' her" (Webster), though the last is warm. My Martinsdale observer (name on request) writes me that the county was "named for the gallant General Meagher, New York society darling, Irish patriot (and drunk), and is pronounced habitually 'mar,' but there are certain boobs who want to seem in-

formed, who get a bit of breath between the *ma* and the *her*."

**Medaryville, Ind.** Accent on the "dairy."

**Media, Pa.** Rhymes with "speedy à" as in "How speedy a machine is it?"

**Medina, Tex.** River, lake, county, and village (near San Antonio) are usually "me dee' na." But in Ohio and New York the *i* is as in the name "Dinah."

**Medomak, Maine.** The accented syllable, "dom," rhymes with "Tom." The mute *e* and the mute *a* are just about indistinguishable.

**Megargel, Tex.** Accent on the "gar." As the child remarked, "Me gargle with Listerine" (advt.).

**Mehama, Oreg.** The accented syllable of this is "hay." I wish there could be a law requiring these *-ama* places to get together. (See MAZAMA.)

**Meigs, Ga., Tenn.** Also Fort Meigs, Ohio, and Mount Meigs, Ala.,—all rhyme with "legs."

**Melbeta, Nebr.** Rhymes with "Well, *eat à* (peach, or something)."

**Melones, Calif.** ("Melons." Gold found here was in the shape of melon seeds. With characteristic modesty, the promoters gave the place a name which would imply that the nuggets were as big as melons.) Present usage wavers somewhere between the three-syllable "Maloney's" and the two-syllable "Malone's."

**Memphremagog** (lake, Vermont). "Mem-fre-may'gog," rhyming with "empty *gray* dog."

**Menands, N. Y.** Rhymes with "the *sands*." *Menan*, Idaho, also accents the last syllable.

**Mendocino, Calif.** Shows its Mexican heritage; the accented "ci" is pronounced "see."

**Meno, Okla.** Rhymes with "Reno."

**Menoken, N. Dak.** Accent the "men." Sounds like a perfect, though somewhat unconventional, plural for "manikin."

**Mercedes, Tex.** (About five miles from the Rio Grande.) Pretty Mexican. Accent "say." You'll be understood if you rhyme it with "pervade us," but a little more "air" in the first syllable and more of a long *a* in the last would be less "gringo." *Merced*, Calif., accents "sed" and rhymes with "her *bed*."

**Merepoint, Maine.** (On the end of a long finger sticking out into Casco Bay.) There's Trundy Point and Pemaquid Point and Bay Point and Small Point—and Merepoint. Why not "Mere Point," Uncle Sam? Or should I say Uncle *Jim*? (See PENA-BLANCA.)

**Merino, Mont.** Accent "ree."

**Mesaba, Minn.** Rhymes with "We *rob* à (bank)." (Don't emphasize the *we*.) The Mesabi range, in the same state, rhymes with "the lobby."

**Mescalero, N. Mex.** (Indian reservation about 100 miles from the border.) "Mess *kà lay' ro*."



However, in rapid speech, the *ero* commonly sounds much like "arrow."

Meshoppen, Pa. As in "I haven't done m' shop-pin' yet."

Mesita, Colo. Rhymes satisfactorily with "Anita."

Mesquite, N. Mex. Two syllables; much like a short form for "mosquito," "mes-keet'."

Metaline, Wash. Rhymes with "Get a shine."

Methow, Wash. The preferred pronunciation is "*Met* how" as in this conversation: "We met yesterday." "*Met* how?"

Methuen, Mass. Best usage would rhyme this with "Beth, *you an'*" ("Beth, *you an'* I go"). The main thing is to put the accent in the middle—in this country.

Metuchen, N. J. Accent on "tutch." Rhymes with "the scutcheon."

Metzger, Oreg. "Metz' gur" (the "ger" as in "tiger").

Mexia, Tex. This is considerable of a town. Yet it has not only failed to throw off its allegiance to Mexico (nearly 400 miles away)—it still pronounces the *x* like an *h*—but it prides itself on accenting the *xi* and calling it "hay"! Which is not Mexican or anything else. For the present, say "me hee'a."

Miami. The owner of a newspaper in the Florida city told me, "Only the very wealthy said 'mee

ah' mee,' and there aren't any of them any more." The choice in rhymes is, then, between "Why dam-mee!" (accent on the *dam*) and "My Gramma" (accent on the "gram"). And the feeling seems to be, not only in Florida, Oklahoma, and Arizona, but also in *Miamisburg*, Ohio, that "mee" is correct but that "muh" is more common. Somewhat as in *Missouri* (q.v.), we outsiders usually end with "mee" whereas the genuine Cracker gets a little tired, and draws "muh."

Micawber, Okla. Hoping against hope (see MIKADO) that the local gentry had invented some preposterous mispronunciation for this, I wrote and asked. But they knew their Dickens too well for that. It's "mick aw' bur." Its population (somewhat under 100) indicates that it is still rather waiting for something to turn up.

Michigamme, Mich. Preferably "mish-i-gah' me," rhyming with *balmy*. It also rhymes with "Sammy," among the—shall I say?—"unwashed." I'd better not. I wash occasionally, but I don't always remember to say "gah' me."

Midale, Mont. This is "*My dale*." You can have the other dale.

Mikado, Mich. Hold your breath. This is not "mick ah' do" but "my kay' do," all the vowels long.

Mikkalo, Oreg. This rhymes with "*strike a blow*."

Milaca, Minn. Rhymes with "will *crack* à (safe)."

Millard, Utah, Va. Rhymes with "Willard" (first-syllable accent).

Mina, S. Dak. Rhymes with "Dinah."

Mineola, Long Island, and Tex. "Minnie-o' la."

Minneiska, Minn. (Not the result of a collision between Minnesota and Nebraska; they are not adjoining states.) "Minnie iss' ka" is correct, by all the rules of logic, but a good many—perhaps a majority—make that accented syllable "ess."

Minonk, Ill. Either "min onk'" or "min unk'," following the analogy of either "conk" or "monk." The first is preferred.

Miramar, Calif. ("View the sea.") Rhymes with "*steer* a car."

Miramonte, Calif. (A surname; but means "View a mountain.") Accent the "mon"; rhymes with "*beer upon* tray."

Misenheimer, N. C. The German *ei*. The name rhymes with "wissenheimer."

Mishawaka, Ind. Rhymes with "fish-a *talk*-a," as the Italian remarked when the whale spouted.

Missoula, Mont. The double *s* gets the *z* sound, as in "Missouri": "m' zoo' la."

Missouri. The consensus among my observers is: college-bred people tend to rhyme it with *jury*, especially in St. Louis, where the "uh" ending is con-

sidered "careless"; even the hissing sound may be heard along with the "jury" ending, from the kind of people who use the "eye" sound in "either" and "neither"; but these hissers are likely to be "Yankees from outside." Most of the natives, in both Missouri and Kansas, say "mi zoor' à."

**Mobile, Ala.** About equal accents on the two syllables (depending on the rhythm of the sentence). Rhymes with "low heel."

**Moclips, Wash.** Rhymes with "no hips."

**Modena, Mo., Pa., Wis.** All rhyme with "Oh Lena!" (accent the "ee"). I understand that the Pennsylvania town wants its name changed to "Papperville," which would of course be more musical and distinctive.

**Mohave (desert).** This used to be spelled with a *j*, but evidently got tired of being called "mo-jave," to rhyme with "no shave." The Mexican version rhymes with a Bostonian's question to a druggist, "No *salve*, eh?" but the unaccented last syllable is rapidly becoming "vee."

**Moiese, Mont.** At present this is called "mo eez'."

**Moir, N. Y.** Rhymes with "Go *hire* à," as in the old sneer, addressed to some long-winded complainer, "Go hire a hall."

**Molina, Colo.** (Named for an old grist mill.) The Spanish-speaking founders of the place doubtless called it "mo lee'na." Then came a layer of to-

bacco-chewing pioneers who liked to rhyme it with "Dinah." Now, thanks to the Woman's Club and to higher education, the pendulum is swinging back to "Lena."

Moline, Ill. The "ine" as in "machine" or "marine": "mo leen'."

Molino, Mo. This rhymes with "no Reno."

Mollenauer, Pa. Usually pronounced "*mull* in our," as in "You can't *mull* in our garden." People who mull in gardens are a positive menace.

Molokai, Hawaii. Rhymes satisfactorily with "oh so high," accents on first and third.

Moneta, Calif. Here again (see LOUP), "There seems to be no way in which this name can be mispronounced." Yet an educated Mexican would instantly call the accented syllable "nay"; and the fact that the town is well south, near Los Angeles, would make the average outsider lean towards the Mexican version. However, "mo nee' ta" is correct.

Monie, Md. Rhymes with "Oh *try*!"

Monocacy, Md., Pa. Except for the first syllable, a perfect rhyme for "democracy." In other words, emphasize the "nock."

Monongahela, Pa. Main accent on the "hee." Secondary on "nong."

Monson, Mass., Me. Sounds more like "Munson" than a rhyme for "Bronson."

Montague, Tex. Most people and places of this

name make it three syllables, with the accent on the "mon." But in Texas, according to Bolton, the "tague" is thought of as rhyming with "Sprague"; and is accented. Rhyme the name with "John Craig."

Monte Ne, Ark. ("Coin" Harvey, the founder, figured this meant "mountain water." Anyway, *Ne* is "water" in an Indian dialect.) Usually "Mon'tee Nee"—though "nay" is fairly common.

Montesano, Wash. This rhymes with "On the train, oh."

Montevideo, Minn. South of the Rio Grande, it's different. But here's a triplet in honor of Minnesota:

Up north in Montevideo  
A guy called "Don the Giddy-o"  
Married some old widdy-o.

Monthalia, Tex. Don't let the classical pronunciation of "Thalia" upset you. The accented syllable is a lisper's version of "say"; and the whole rhymes with "(Did) Don *fail* ya?"

Monticello. The Italian is "chello," and that is probably what Jefferson called it. But "sello" is generally preferred now; for instance, at the *Monticello* Hotel in Charlottesville.

Montier, Mo. Rhymes with "(Is) *Don* here?" Originally, I suspect, it was more like "frontier," before Recessive Accent got in its deadly work.

Mook, Ky. Rhymes with "spook."

**Moraga, Calif.** Though in the San Francisco area, this keeps the accented "ah" of the Spanish.

**Morales, Tex.** Complaining that he didn't get to see his girl-friend Alice enough, the boy said that he wanted "more *Alice*."

**Moriches, Long Island.** Sounds like "more *riches*"—which can be represented another way.

**Morstein, Pa.** Like an ungrammatical request for another stein of beer. Emphasize "mor."

**Moscow, Idaho.** Only easterners pronounce the "cow" dairy-fashion. The name may start with either "mah" or "maw," but the last syllable must rhyme with "slow."

**Motorun, Va.** Both *o*'s are long. Pronounce it as in "Make Mr. *Moto* run."

**Moultrie (Ga., Ill., S. C.)** "*Mole* tree" seems to be generally preferred, though "moo" and "mool" are still heard, especially in the Charleston area. The family name was not originally equipped with an *l*.

**Mount Croghan, S. C.** Rhymes pretty well with "floggin'."

**Mount Desert, Me.** Accented on the last syllable, like the verb "desert" rather than the noun.

**Moweaqua, Ill.** (Scene of a mine disaster.) If you leave off the *l*, it rhymes with "no *equal*."

**Moxee City, Wash.** At present the accent is on the *ee*. But the insidious rhythm of the double

"Moxee City" will play hob with the accent, and eventually, I think, bring forth a rhyme with "foxy."

Muenster, Tex. My observer says it ranges from "minster" (the best) to "monster"! It will probably settle down to "munster."

Mukilteo, Wash. Rhymes with "Buckle *Leo*."

Muleshoe, Tex. Unlike "Ravenshoe" ("raven's hoe"), this is just what it appears to be: "mule shoe."

Mundelein, Ill. Rhymes with the Boston pronunciation of "underline." Accent the "mun."

Munising, Mich. The "mew" is emphatic as in cats. Imagine a girl named "Muna" (there is such a name), and then "Let *Muna* sing."

Murtaugh, Idaho. "Murt' aw."

Muscatine, Iowa. Accent on the last syllable. Rhymes with "Gus, marine."

Muskegon, Mich. Accent the "kee."

Muskogee, Okla. (Also Muscogee, Fla., Ga.) Hard *g* as in "geese"—rhymes with "us *go* see." My observer writes, "I am told the Indians once accented the last syllable, and pronounced it 'jee.' "



# N

Naches, Wash. Accent on the "cheese"; rhymes with "*à breeze*." But Port *Neches*, Tex., rhymes with "wretches." (See NATCHEZ.)

Nacogdoches, Tex. Silence the *g*. Rhymes with "pack o' roaches."

Nahant, Mass. The first *a* is obscure, the second gets the accent. Oliver Wendell Holmes works it in thus:

The shining horses foam and pant,  
And now the smells begin  
Of fishy Swampscot, salt Nahant,  
And leather-scented Lynn.

Nanafalia, Ala. Accents on "nan" and "lie." Rhymes with "Manna, Maria!" as the man from the deep Bible Belt exclaimed when he first saw snow.

Nandua, Va. Rhymes with "and *you a*," as in "He called me a——, and *you à*—— —."

Nantahala (mountains, North Carolina). Means "land of noon-day sun." Accent the "hay." (Yes, the mountaineers rhyme it with "gaily," but we don't have to follow suit. The last *a* should be mute.)

Napa, Calif. (Famous for glove-leather.) Pronounce it as in "*Nap a* while."

Napavine, Wash. Rhymes with "*snap à line*."

Naponee, Nebr. (And Nappanee, Ind.) First and third syllables accented about equally; rhymes with "*tap a tree*."

Nara Visa, N. Mex. If you say "*paradise-a*" (hanging an obscure *a* on the end), you have a satisfactory rhyme for "*Nara Visa*."

Naselle, Wash. Rhymes with "*Mabelle*"; i.e., with "*pray tell*"; hiss the *s*.

Nashua, N. H. Somewhat as in *Iowa*, when the natives have their store-clothes on they mute the final *a*; but at other times the homespun long *a* still seems altogether desirable; perhaps there is in it somehow the music of a distant cowbell or the evening song from the frog-pond. The contrasting rhymes are with "*cash you à*" and "*cash away*," as in the following fantastic conversation: "*May I cash you a check?*" "*Cash away*."

Nassawadox, Va. Another illustration of the accented *a* pronounced "*aw*." Rhymes with "*Massa saw box*."

Natalbany, La. (By derivation, probably had something to do with barbecued bear meat.) The local pronunciation is said to be "*Talbany*" (just *t* plus *Albany*, N. Y.) and to have been in use for over a hundred years. However, you will not be the guest of honor at a lynching party if you put a "*Nat*" in front.

Natalia, Tex. Accent on *al*. But for the final *n*, it would rhyme with "battalion."

Natchez, Miss.

There was a young belle of old Natchez  
Who tore all her garments to patches.

When comment arose

On the state of her clothes,  
She drawled, "When Ah itches, Ah scratches."

—Ogden Nash, in *Saturday R. of L.*

Natchitoches, La. The natives like "nackitosh," same vowels as "mackintosh."

Nathalie, Va. Commonly sounds like "nattily," but the *h* may be heard in the best circles.

Nathrop, Colo. Long *a*, as in the common surname, *Lathrop*.

Natick, Mass. Rhymes with "*may* tick." ("It *may* tick, and then again it may not," said the man as he picked his watch up off the floor.)

Naturita, Colo. Accent on the "ee." Preferably rhymes with "Catcher, eat à (piece of pie)," but commonly with "Batter, eat à (etc.)." This variation is in line with the rustic "natterally" for "naturally."

Naugatuck, Conn. Rhymes with "*saw* a truck"—and I don't mean "*sore* a truck."

Naughtright, N. J. "Naw' rite"; rhymes with "*jaw* bite."

Nauvoo, Ill., Ohio. Take your choice on the ac-

cent: "naw-voo." But recessive accent will probably bring them into agreement, someday, on the first syllable.

Navarino, Wis. Accent on "ree." Rhymes with "Have à *Beano*."

Navasota, Tex. Rhymes with "Have à *quota*."

Navesink Hills, N. J. "Navy sink" and "Never sink" are not to be taken too seriously; the preferred rhyme is with "*Have à drink*."

Necedah, Wis. Accent on "see." Rhymes, about, with "Miss Freda."

Neches, Tex. See NACHES.

Nehalem, Oreg. Rhymes with "we *nail* 'em."

Neihart, Mont. Keeps the German. Rhymes with "*my heart*."

Neligh, Nebr. Rhymes with "freely."

Nemadjee, Minn. Rhymes with "them *badgey*" as in "Goering likes them *badgey*" (referring to uniforms with lots of decorations).

Neodesha, Kans., Okla. Uncle Noah will be interested to learn that natives of both these places repudiate the "shah" ending given in the dictionary. The primary accent is on "shay," the secondary on "oh." Rhymes with "We know the *play*."

Neopit, Wis. Rhymes with "We *hope* it."

Nescopeck, Pa. Made the headlines in an embezzlement case, and got itself pronounced all sorts

of ways over the radio. Rhymes with "*Bess*, go neck" (accenting the first).

Nespelem, Wash. Rhymes with "*Le's deal 'em*."

Netawaka, Kans. "*Netta walk à*," as in "*Make Netta walk a while*."

Neubert, Tenn. The German would have an "oi" in it. But this rhymes with "*Hubert*."

Nevada. The accented *a* is usually flat, as in *Alabama*, though "*nevahda*" is also authorized. The town in Iowa, I regret to say, rhymes with "*à blade o'* (grass)."

Newagen, Maine. This, I am told, is "*new-wagon*," implying that the "*wag*" gets the emphasis.

New Almelo, Kans. The principal accent is on the "*ahl*," in Holland, and the same in New Almelo, except that the Kansas *Al* is a bit flatter.

Newark. Both New Jersey and Ohio admit that the two syllables are pretty well squeezed into one. Ohio prefers "*noo*" to "*niu*"; and on that point not even the WOR announcers are in agreement.

New Athens. See ATHENS.

New Baden. See BADEN.

New Braunfels, Tex. Keep the German [*au*]: rhymes with "*town smells*," as in "*The town smells just wonderful*."

New Bremen. See BREMEN.

Newfoundland, N. J., Pa. Up north, where it all started, the "*land*" is accented. But the dog,

wandering far from its place of origin, came to be accented on "found"; and the same with the New Jersey and Pennsylvania towns.

**New Orleans, La.** Accent on the "leenz" is definitely wrong, being heard chiefly in Tin Pan Alley. "N'Yawlins" represents pretty well what you hear in the Deep South. Just a concise form of "niu or' lee-unz."

**New York.** Easterners dislike the Western *r* in "York," on the ground that it makes "York" sound like a yodel from a large frog; a fair representation of the Manhattan rendering is "N'Yawk" (not "yoik"—the 33rd Street "oi" is a massacre of *er*, not of *or*). Meticulous people, like certain radio announcers, say "niu."

**Nezperce, Idaho.** The old-fashioned pronunciation, which approximated the Indian, was something like "nip Percy." But now it usually rhymes with "*sez worse*," as in "My little brother *sez worse* things than yours does."

**Nicut, Okla.** Rhymes with "*My cut*."

**Niobe, N. Y.** (Originally Brokenstraw.) The residents agree with the specialists in classic mythology, that this rhymes with "*My oh me!*"

**Niobrara, Nebr.** ("Running Water.") Maybe the Indians said "nee," but the long *i* is now established. A rhyme for it: "Guy O'Hara."

**Nipinnawasee, Calif.** ("Home of the deer.")

Accent the "waw." Rhymes with "Flip in à *saucy* (remark.)"

Nisqually, Wash. Rhymes with "Miss *Crawley*."

Nisula, Mich. (Finnish name.) Rhymes with "*miss* you lah," as in "I'm going to *miss* you lots."

Nocona, Tex. Rhymes with "Go *phone* à (policeman)."

Nogales, Ariz. People out there rhyme it with "no palace."

Nopeming, Minn. Accent on "pem." Rhymes with "Joe Fleming."

Norfolk, Mass., Nebr., Va. Few favor pronouncing "folk" like "folk." Most favor an unaccented *u* or *o*. But in Nebraska the proximity of the "North Fork" river leads to a widespread rendering of "Norfolk" as "Norfork."

Northome, Minn. Though it doubtless means "North Home," go cockney on the second *h*, and say "*North* 'ome."

Notre Dame, Ind. Though Webster is not yet fully convinced, this rhymes with "voter came." "Only visitors now give the place its French pronunciation," say the residents.

Nounan, Idaho. Accent "now." The "ou" is as in "noun."

Novi, Mich. Rhymes with "*go* by."

Novinger, Mo. The accented "nov" is as in

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"novel," and the "inger" rhymes with "cringer," one who cringes.

Nowlin, S. Dak. Rhymes with "bowlin' " as in "bowlin' alley."

Nuangola, Pa. "Noo Ang go' la." The original intention appears to have been *New Angola*.

Nueces (river, county, Texas). Much like "new way, sis," only squeeze the first two syllables together.

Nuevo, Calif. Again, make the "nue" as much like one syllable as possible: "noo-way'vo."

Nuriva, W. Va. Starts out with "noo," and rhymes with "you *drive* a," as in "You drive a hard bargain."

Nyando, N. Y. (By derivation, neither Indian, African, Italian, nor Greek. Give up? N. Y. & O. Ry.—New York & Ottawa.) Rhymes with "buy *land*, oh."



# O

**Oahe**, S. Dak. (Sioux for "foundation.") This four-letter word has three large and resounding syllables: "oh *ah* hay."

**Oahu**, Hawaii. "Wah' hoo." Or spread it out into three syllables, "o ah' hoo." Webster likes the latter.

**Oasis**, Calif. Rhymes with "Go 'way, sis." The first-syllable accent allowed in the dictionaries is not heard in any places of that name in this country.

**Oberon**, N. Dak. Rhymes with "*over* on (the table)." Or may be shortened to "Oh' brun."

**Ocala**, Fla. Sounds like the beginning of "O' Callahan." Accent *cal*.

**Occoquan**, Va. (Narrowly escaped being on U.S. One.) Accent in the middle. Rhymes with "(Does) Pa *know*, John?"

**Oceana** (county, Mich.) Don't be misled by what the dictionaries say about Harrington's Utopia of that name (accent either "see" or long "a"! ) When in Michigan say "Oh, she *Anna*."

**Ochelata**, Okla. Sneeze the *ch*, and rhyme the whole thing with "Oh, we *hate* à (quitter, or whatever we do hate)."

Ochoa, N. Mex. I am told that the *ch* is sneezed and the *a* is silent, making the name rhyme with "No, Joe."

Oconomowoc, Wis. Rhymes with "Go *yon*, a slow walk."

Octave, Ariz. (Mining camp.) Rhymes with "Sock Dave."

Odanah, Wis. This is "Oh *Dana*!" Accent in the middle, on the long *a*.

Odebolt, Ia. Rhymes with "Throw the colt." Accent first and third.

Oelrichs, S. Dak. In best usage, rhymes with "*droll* tricks." But "*Ulrichs*" is common.

Oelwein, Iowa. Again the umlauted *o* has become long *o*. Cut off the *d* from "*old* wine."

Oenaville, Tex. But here the *o* sound is entirely lost: "ee' na."

Ogeechee, Ga. Rhymes with "Joe *Beachey*." The *g* is hard as in "geese."

Ogema, Minn. (Compare *Ogemaw* County, Mich.) Another illustration of the final "aw" in a three-syllable name accented on the first. This rhymes roughly with "*toga*, maw."

Ohio. A common mispronunciation is "Ohia."

Ojai, Calif. Just "*Oh*, high!"

Ojibwa, Wis. In Missouri this is spelled *Ojibway*. Another spelling is *Chippewa*, for the same Indian tribe—and that, too, is often topped off with

a "way" sound. Yet Wisconsin's *Ojibwa* rhymes with "Go *fib* à (little)."

**Okabena**, Minn. Rhymes with "Soak arena!"—imaginary order issued before a bull-fight, the idea being to lay the dust.

**Okanogan**, Wash. Rhymes well with "no to-boggan."

**Okaton**, S. Dak. First syllable accent. *Oka* rhymes with *Coca* (*Cola*).

**Okemah**, Okla. Rhymes with "Go *see*, Ma," as the boy remarked to his famous Pioneer Mother.

**Okemos**, Mich. This, unfortunately, is different. It rhymes with "*smoky joss*" (i.e., a burning joss-stick). All right, you try to find a more appropriate rhyme for the "ahss" sound—"silly ahss" barred.

**Oketo**, Kans. Same accent and vowel-sounds as "Toledo."

**Oklee**, Minn. Rhymes with (if I may coin a word) "brokely"—i.e., like one who is broke.

**Okmulgee**, Okla. Rhymes with "soak *dull* geese"—if you can forget the "se." Same with Ocmulgee, Ga. (See MUSKOGEE.)

**Olathe**, Kans. Rhymes with "no *faith* à," as in "no faith a-tawl."

**Olean**, Mo., N. Y. (Derived from Latin *oleum*, oil.) Rhymes with "Holy Ann!"  
Ree-a."

**Olivera**, N. Y. Accent on "ree": "Oliver

Olmstead, Ky. (Also *Olmsted*, Minn.) Both rhyme with "*bomb* dead." In line with our policy of "The customer is always right"—even if you pronounce "*bomb*" "*bum*," no harm is done, as the pronunciation "*um' sted*" is also allowed.

Olney, Ill., Tex. This is "*ahl'nee*." But Olneyville, R. I., rhymes with Toneyville.

Olyphant, Pa. Take the "*Oli*" of "*Oliver*" and paste it in front of the "*phant*" of "*elephant*."

Olyphic, N. C. Rhymes with "*prolific*."

Omaha, Nebr. Accent the *o*, and wind up with "*haw*," not "*hah*."

Omak, Wash. First syllable accent: "*Oh*, Mac."

Omeme, N. Dak. ("*Flying pigeon*.") Rhymes with "*so dreamy*," and sounds like rehearsal time in a Singing Academy.

Onalaska, Wash. Might be the name of a college song of the "*On, Wisconsin*" type: "*On, Alaska*."

Onawa, Iowa. ("*Wide Awake*.") This is similar to "*Ottawa*" in vowel sounds and accent: first syllable accent, and a concluding mute "*a*" (or even "*aw*"). To quote my observer, "Even the most ambitious brakeman hasn't been able to destroy the melody of this Indian word." But I'll bet he says "*On'away*." That's the way they spell it in Michigan.

Oneida. In spite of *seize* and *neither* ("*nee*-

ther" to most Americans), this name, found in nine widely separated states, keeps the long "i." Accent it.

**Onekema, Mich.** Still unsettled; rhymes with "Go *neck* a Ma" or "Throw the *key*, Ma." Best of all, accent the *o* and say the rest under your breath. You'll have to spell it out in any case.

**Oneonta, N. Y.** Rhymes with "Row me *on* a (while)." But the brakeman often converts "ta" into "tee." And in Alabama, both *on*'s are flat.

**Onondaga, Mich., N. Y.** The first three vowel sounds are usually about the same, the fourth being obscure. The accented "dah" is, however, often pronounced "daw."

**Ontonagon, Mich.** I have heard the accented *na* pronounced "naw" all my life (the ancestral lumber company owned timber there).

**Oolite, Ky.** *Not* three syllables, the way it should be, in references to rock that resembles petrified fish-eggs. The Blue Grassers rhyme it with "You might."

**Oostburg, Wis.** The Dutch touch, long *o*, has been lost. The "oost" now rhymes with "roost."

**Opelika, Ala.** Usually rhymes with "Papa *strike* à (match)."

**Opelousas, La.** Accent first and third, making it rhyme, roughly, with "Papa Whozis."

**Ophiem, Ill.** There's an *Opheim* in Montana,

pronounced in the German way, to rhyme with "*Stop crime.*" In Illinois, the original was doubtless *Opheim* too, but some ignorant people pronounced the *ei* "ee," perhaps, so the spelling was changed. And now everybody there calls it "*Oh feem*"!

Opolis, Kans. When it grows up it's going to be "metropolis." But the accent is on the "op" already.

Oraibi, Ariz. Rhymes with "no *ivy*." But surely you didn't expect *ivy* in Arizona.

Oriskany, N. Y. Rhymes with "so *brisk* a knee."

Oriva, Wyo. Rhymes beautifully with Lady *Godiva* (preferably long *i* as in "Go *dive* à while").

Orofino, Idaho. The Spanish has been kept; rhymes with "Morrow-Reno."

Orono, Maine. (University of Maine.) As in the sentence "Let *Ora* know."

Oronoque, Conn. Rhymes with "Pour a Coke." Indications are that the accent is receding from the third syllable to the first.

Orosi, Calif. It means "Gold? Yes!" and rhymes with "Oh *no*, Lee," or, popularly and more commonly, with "Oh *no*, suh" (compare *Cincinnati*, *Miami*, *Missouri*). The *s* is hissed.

Orsino, Fla. Accent the "see," as in "Casino."

Osage. The accent here depends to some extent on the following word; if it is a monosyllable or is accented on the first syllable, *Osage* is likely to have

the first-syllable accent too. In fact, the first-syllable accent is gaining all along the line.

**Osaka, Va.** The literati here know that it should be "Oh' sock-a." But *hoi polloi* like "Oh say ka" (almost as in "Oh say can you see?") better than the Japanese version.

**Osakis, Minn.** Sounds like "Oh say, kiss!"

**Osawatomie, Kans.** (John Brown's home town.) Some authorities call for "ah-sa," but the local citizens give the accepted pronunciation as rhyming with "gross anatomy."

**Osceola.** In Nebraska and Florida and Pennsylvania, it rhymes with "Flossy-Lola"; in Iowa and Louisiana, the first *o* is often long. But everywhere the accent is on the second *o*.

**Ossian, Iowa.** The "sh" has been lost somewhere. Just "oss'n" as in "Ossining."

**Osteen, Fla.** "Oh steen," with about equal accents.

**Ostrander, Minn., Ohio.** Long *o*. Rhymes with "snow sander."

**Oswayo, Pa.** ("Many Waters.") Starts with "ah" and emphasizes the "sway."

**Oswego, N. Y.** "Ah swee' go."

**Otero, Colo.** Rhymes with "no *Karo*." Purists make the "tay" quite long.

**Otowi, N. Mex.** The Indians appear to accent this on the first *o*; the rhyme, "*photo* free."

Otsego, N. Y. Rhymes with "got *me* go," as in "Now you've got *me* going."

Otselic, N. Y. Rhymes with "shot Felic" (i.e., the singular of "Felix").

Ottumwa, Iowa. The "tum" is emphasized (fashion note). Start with "ah" and end with "uh."

Ouachita, Ark. Hold your breath. This sounds like "*Wash* it all"—if you can forget the two *l*'s.

Ouray, Colo., Utah. The native calmly says "you-ray," in spite of Webster's quite logical "oo-ray'."

Outagamie (county, Wis.) Accent on "gam"; rhymes with "Clout a mammy." A Lawrence professor (whom Webster should have consulted before recommending "oot") writes me that "the citizens are almost unanimous. . . ."

Ovid, Mich., N. Y. Rhymes with "*No bid.*" A boy in the New York town told Mr. Bolton that "only highbrows say 'ah' vid.'" Nevertheless, "ah' vid" is correct in references to the Roman poet.

Oviedo, Fla. The Spanish color has faded. This rhymes, now, with "Go *see*, Joe."

Owaneco, Ill. Accent on "wah." Rhymes with "Throw *Bonny o*" as in "Throw *Bonny* over."

Owasippe, Mich. Though a "wah" accent is sometimes heard, the usual arrangement is as in "Mississippi." Rhymes with "know à *Skippy.*"



# P

**Pachuta**, Miss. Accent "chew." The name rhymes with "a *Jew* ta" as in "How do you expect a *Jew* ta like Hitler?"

**Paden**, Miss., Okla. (Also *Paden* City, W. Va.) All rhyme with "laden." (See BADEN.)

**Padena**, Ga. Rhymes with "Galena"; i.e., two mute *a*'s with a "dee" between them.

**Padroni**, Colo. Properly, should rhyme with "bad *crony*," but there is a tendency, among the natives, to change the "ee" sound to a mute *a*, as in *Orosi* or *Miami*. The fact is, according to my observer, that the founder's name was actually *Padrona*.

**Paducah**. Kentucky is careful to call it "diu" (almost "joo"). "Doo" is used in Texas. In both states the middle syllable is accented.

**Pagopago**. The native pronunciation is "pango-pango," and that spelling should therefore be preferred. But surely when it is spelled "Pago" you may pronounce it "pah' go." A parallel case is *Jehol*. You don't have to pronounce it "Ra-ho" unless it's spelled "Raho."

Paisano (peak near Marfa, Tex.) The blonde waitress in the hotel of that name, in Marfa, couldn't pronounce it at all, but the brunette (part Mexican, perhaps) gave it, correctly, as "py sah'no," rhyming with "My *Ma* no" as in "My *Ma* knows best," expression constantly heard on the lips of children, bless their little hearts. Incidentally, *paisano* means both "peasant" and "pheasant," and yet the two English words are not etymologically related.

Palls, Va. No London influence here. Just "Paul's." Something vaguely depressing about it, though.

Palo Alto. Though I heard an announcer, on Election Night in 1932, speak of a certain gentleman in "Pay-low Alto," two cards from California insist that "Palo" rhymes with "sallow"; true also of Pennsylvania and Texas, but not of Virginia, where it is "Pay'low." This long *a* is likewise correct in Palo, Iowa and Michigan.

Palo Duro (state park, Texas Panhandle). The Walgreen cashier in Amarillo agreed that the "pal" was flat as in *Palo Alto* (q.v.) In conversation the general effect is "palla-doo'ro," with the *o* of "Palo" breaking down into a mute *a*.

Palomar, Calif. ("Pigeon-house.") Accent on "pal." Rhymes with "*shallow* bar."

Palo Pinto, Tex. Webster recommends "pay." But Bolton joins me in the conviction that the "pal" is practically always flat, in Texas.

Palouse, Wash. Rhymes with "à *moose*."

Pamlico, N. C. Rhymes with "*Fam'ly* go!" as the youth exclaimed when told that he and his bride were to be accompanied, on their honeymoon, by the entire family.

Pamunkey (river, Virginia). This is almost too easy: hang a *p* on the front of "à monkey."

Pana, Ill. "Pay'na," rhyming with "Dana."

Pantego, N. C. Emphasize "tee."

Paola, Fla. Accent in the middle. Rhymes with "Say Lola!"

Paoli, Ind., Pa. No trace of Italian left here, either. This rhymes with "stay *holy*."

Parlett, Ohio. The heroine of *Gone with the Wind* had two *t*'s but usually a first-syllable accent. This Ohio town has the more logical accent, on the "lett."

Parowan, Utah. (Piute for "water.") "Pah' ro-an," a good deal like "*Borrow*, Ann."

Pascagoula, Miss. Rhymes with "Cask o' *Boola*," which, as is well known, is the New Haven word for "whisky."

Pasche, Tex. Pronounced as in: "Some *pashy* love-letters were introduced as evidence."

Paso Robles, Calif. Authorities and residents differ, varying from "pa-so' ro-blus" to a rhyme for "Mass, oh nobles." Though Webster gives "pah'so

ro'bless," I prophesy that the flat *a* of *El Paso* and the analogy with "nobles" will prevail.

Passapatanzy, Va. This rhymes with "Glass up a *pansy*"—which means, obviously, to transplant a pansy into a greenhouse. The "glass" referred to, incidentally, rhymes with "gas."

Pass Christian, Miss. Nobody down there says "Christian" in the normal way. Make it three syllables, with the accent on the *an*. French influence.

Patchogue, Long Island. Rhymes with "catch hog" (accents about equal). There is a difference of opinion, just as in "hog," as to whether it is "ahg" or "awg"; but Webster's long *o* is definitely wrong. There is a *Pachaug* in Connecticut, pronounced much the same.

Paton, Iowa. Rhymes with "Dayton."

Patzau, Wis. My Patzau correspondent makes it "pat' zoo." It seems unlikely to me, as an observer of trends, that this will prevail over "pat' zaw"—if only because the latter bears less resemblance to a sneeze.

Paullina, Iowa. Evidently a slightly warped spelling of *Paulina*, and a relative of *Pauline*. It is pronounced "paw *Lena*."

Pavia, Pa. Stress the "pay." Rhymes with *Batavia*.

Paxinos, Pa. Rhymes with "Jack's sinus," as in "Jack's *sinus* is troubling him again."

Pecos, Tex. Close enough to the Mexican border to rhyme with "*stay* close" (hissing *s*). Among the natives, the trend is toward "peck" rather than "peek."

Peedee (river, S. C.) Like the initials "P. D." In North Carolina the same river is called the Yadkin. For a self-respecting river, there would seem to be little choice.

Pegram, Idaho. Rhymes with "*we* scram." Don't swallow the *a*, the way some folks do in "progr'm" and "telegr'm." Or do they?

Pejepscot, Maine. Rhymes with "the *pep*'s hot."

Pekin, Ill. As with Canton and Berlin, America has transferred the accent to the first syllable: "peek' in."

Pemaquid, Maine. Rhymes with "*Emma* did."

Pembine, Wis. Rhymes with "*them* whine" ("I'll make *them* whine!"). However, *Pembina* County, N. Dak., follows the accented "pem" with a short "bin," and even, according to Webster, may top it off with an "aw," as do *Omaha* and *Waukesha*.

Penablanca, N. Mex. (This is the postoffice spelling for this town near Santa Fe—why not "Santafe," Mr. Farley?—but my observer writes it *Peña Blanca*.) Correctly, "pain'ya," as in "What am I *pain*-ya for?" But commonly "peen'ya." And will eventually, I expect, be "penna" or "peena."

Penalosa, Kans. (Originally, "Peña Losa," a

sort of flagstone.) Rhymes with "Senna? No, suh," as the colored druggist replied when asked if he would recommend senna for a toothache.

**Pen Argyl, Pa.** *Argyl* rhymes with a cockney pronunciation of *Vergil*: "var' jill."

**Pend Oreille** (county, Washington, bordering on Canada). Still French in general effect: "pon-da-ray," rhyming with "on the way."

**Penelope, Ill. and Tex.** The better-informed residents accent the "nell," as if the name rhymed with "Then *shell* a pea." But a common rendering in Illinois is "penny-lope." Need I say that this is frowned on by the Woman's Club?

**Pengilly, Minn.** Hard *g*. Rhymes with "when silly."

**Peniel, Tex.** (Biblical, but not the Biblical pronunciation.) Rhymes with "*men* smile."

**Peosta, Iowa.** Rhymes with "we ahst'a," as in this Boston conversation: "How old is she?" "We ahst'a, but she wouldn't tell."

**Pepin** (lake, Minnesota, and county, Wisconsin). Webster says "peppin," but the residents like "pippin."

**Pepperell, Mass.** In spite of the double *l*, the emphasis is on the "pep"; and the middle *e* is almost silent: "pep'rel."

**Pequaming, Mich.** The accented *a* is "aw" as in "Chicago." "Pequaming" rhymes with "she chawming," as in "Isn't she *chawming*!"

Perdido, Ala. The residents say "pur deed'o," while Webster rhymes the river with "Fido." It means "lost."

Perkasie, Pa. Hissing *s*. Rhymes, but not very smoothly, with "jerkily."

Perote, Ala. Rhymes with "(Look what) *he* wrote!"

Perrine, Fla. Rhymes with "*air* line."

Peruque, Mo. (This spelling is cock-eyed. The English word is "peruke," the French *perruque*.) Like "peruke," this rhymes fairly well with "*à spook*."

Pescadero, Calif. Rhymes with *Mescalero* (q.v.). My observer, refreshingly non-purist, recommends that the "der" rhyme with "care," remarking that "day'ro" is "probably the best usage, only nobody does it."

Pewamo, Mich. This is usually "pe waw'mo" —the *a* of "Chicago."

Pfeifer, Kans. Don't use the *p*. Say "fifer," rhyming with "lifer."

Pflugerville, Tex. Again the German *p* is *spurlos versenkt*: "flooger-ville."

Pharr, Tex. Though practically on the banks of the Rio Grande, this is "far," as it would be anywhere else.

Phelan, Calif. Named for Senator Phelan, but there is no Irish left. Just "feel'an."

**Philippi, W. Va.** In spite of the long *i* of the common Biblical pronunciation, and in spite of Webster's emphasis on "lip" (based, no doubt, on the double *p*)—my information is that this rhymes with "*Grill à pea*." As if a boy named "Philip" should be feeling "Philip-y." In Tennessee, "Phillippy" does the same thing.

**Piasa, Ill.** Another example of a first-syllable accent with an "aw" ending (see WAUKESHA). Rhymes with "*Buy à straw*."

**Picabo, Idaho.** Bolton says this is "peek' a-boo." Anyway, the accent is on the "peek."

**Picacho, N. Mex.** Close to the Mexican: "pee kah'tcho."

**Pierre, S. Dak.** "Peer." Only non-residents attempt to preserve the French pronunciation. The same with *San Pierre*, Ind.

**Pillager, Minn.** Soft *g*. Same as "one who pillages."

**Pima, Ariz.** The *i* as in "police": "pee' ma."

**Pineola, N. C.** Not like "Mineola" or even "pi-anola": "pine-ola," the "pine" rhyming with "fine."

**Piniele, Mont.** "Pie neel'," rhyming with "my heel."

**Pinon, N. Mex.** There should be a whozis over the first *n*, but Uncle Jim Farley doesn't allow that any more than he does an apostrophe in things like *Dobbs Ferry*. However, the pronunciation is still



very hot tamale: "pin *yone*," rhyming with "intone."

**Piqua**, Kans., Ohio. The fastidious (and Webster) say "Pick'wah," the ordinary, "Pick'way," and the brakemen, "Pickaway." To help prove it, there's a *Pickaway*, W. Va., and a *Pickaway* County in Ohio.

**Piscataway**, Md. Rhymes with "(Don't) hiss *that-a-way*." I suspect a relationship with the *Piscataqua* river, in New Hampshire, and *Piscataquis* County, in Maine—both accented on the "cat."

**Placer** (Calif.) Also *Placerville*, Calif. and Colo. All derive from *placer* mining, and rhyme the word with "passer" (Bostonians please note that I refer to a flat *a*). One of these Placervilles used to be known as Hangtown, because of vigilante activities.

**Plaistow**, N. H. "Plas'to," rhyming with "Glasgow."

**Planada**, Calif. Not Spanish. Nothing to do with Canada. Its name used to be Geneva, but there were fifteen others, not counting Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio, so they changed it to a made-up name, "to be different from any other in the United States." The middle *a* is flat and accented ("add"), the other two *a*'s are nondescript.

**Plaquemine**, La. ("Persimmon.") Webster's Frenchy version ("plack-meen") is not confirmed by W. A. Read, who indicates that the local pronuncia-

tion is usually "plack'a-mun," rhyming with "*lack à gun*."

**Plattsmouth, Nebr.** You're outside New England now, so don't skimp: "mouth," not "muth."

**Plymouth.** In spite of the American tendency to pronounce as spelled, this still follows its historical shortcut: "plim' muth."

**Poinsett (county, Arkansas).** I made a detour through here when U. S. 70 and U. S. 64 were both under six feet of Mississippi flood-waters. It rhymes with "*coin yet*," as in "I have a *coin yet*."

**Pokegama, Minn.** Rhymes with "No *leg*, aha!" as the detective cried when he found the torso in the trunk. My observer says that Long-Distance generally gets the accent wrong. (See MEHAMA.)

**Pompano, Fla.** Accent on the "pomp," the *a* being mute. Named after a rare and expensive fish, which tastes much like other fish.

**Pompeii, Mich.** A lady who heard a broadcast of mine wrote me that the natives say "pompey-eye." Most outsiders would rhyme it with "Bombay" (second syllable accent).

**Ponce de Leon, Mo.** Almost as many versions as there are residents. The Spanish has a "th" in there, while the Mexican *ce* is "say"; the *e*'s are sometimes long *a*, sometimes "ee," and sometimes (the first one) silent; the *o*'s are either long or short. Best usage, I understand, in Missouri involves the Mexican "say," and a rhyme for "*Bone*, eh? Kay

may *groan*." But Webster's anglicization of the explorer's name, rhyming *Ponce* with *nonce* and *Leon* with *peon*, seems logical enough.

**Ponchatoula, La.** (May signify "hanging hair," probably in reference to the Spanish moss—which was originally nicknamed, by the French, "Spanish beard.") The "ch" is sneezed, and the rhyme is "Don à *hula* (skirt)."

**Poneto, Ind.** No Spanish here: "po nee'to."

**Pontchartrain** (lake near New Orleans). Forget the French. "Pontchar" rhymes with "rahntcher," as the Bostonian pronounced it on arriving at a dude ranch. Oliver Wendell Holmes celebrated the lake thus:

Where summer's falling roses stain  
The tepid waves of Pontchartrain

**Portales, N. Mex.** This rhymes with "bore *malice*." (See NOGALES.)

**Port Angeles, Wash.** Very like the usual pronunciation of "Angelus" ("j" sound). But see LOS ANGELES.

**Portola, Calif.** To quote Nellie Van De Grift Sanchez—and if she isn't at least tri-lingual there's nothing in a name—"Many original signatures of this famous explorer (discoverer of San Francisco Bay) are extant, showing conclusively that the accent was on the last syllable—'Portolá.' " The town is too far from Mexico (it's north-west of Reno, Nevada) to keep this accent forever, but it's still

heard. For most of the residents, *Victrola* furnishes a satisfactory analogy.

Potecasi, N. C. Accent on "kah." Rhymes with "dotty posse."

Potosi, Mo. Rhymes neatly with *Orosi* (q.v.) even to the extent of frequently drawling its "see" out into a "suh," by analogy with *Missouri*.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y. This has been drastically shortened, the "keep" to "kip," and the "pough" to a bare closing of the lips: "puh kip'see."

Poulan, Ga. Sounds like "Poland" without the *d*. Evidently the long *o* sound of "caneloupe."

Poulsbo, Wash. As Weary Willie, seeing some small lakes in the distance, said to his fellow hobo, "Pools, bo."

Poway, Calif. (Indian.) Three guesses. . . . Rhymes with "Now try."

Powcan, Va. Evidently the Indians liked the sound of "Pow!" as in Krazy Kat cartoons. This rhymes with "cow ran."

Powhatan. Everywhere the *pow* rhymes with *how*. And in most places the accent is on the first and third; but in Ohio an accented *hat* is, according to my observer, more common.

Pownal, Vt. Though this is British, not Indian, the *pow* is the same as in the preceding. The trouble here is with the accent. A surprising number of tourists get it wrong. Even with his double *l*, Governor

*Pownall* of the colony of Massachusetts accented the *pow*, just as we do today.

Prague, Okla. One syllable; long *a*. Rhymes with *Sprague*, *plague*, *The Hague*.

Prairie du Chien, Wis. The word for "dog" is pronounced "sheen" here; the name rhymes with "married a queen." An old pronunciation of "prairie" (something like "pe-rair-a") that was ridiculed by Dickens in *American Notes* is pretty well out.

Prairie du Rocher, Ill. Though the élite, I understand, approximate the French, the younger element rhyme the whole thing with "married a poacher."

Preble (County, Ohio). Rhymes with "pebble."

Presho, S. Dak. Starts out like "pressure." Then think of "Presto."

Presque Isle. ("Almost an island.") French influence is still strong in northeastern Michigan, where this rhymes with "desk *meal*" (i.e., the traditional business-man's lunch). In Maine, however, the "isle" rhymes with "mile."

Prevost, Wash. (On Stuart Island, near Friday Harbor.) Rhymes with "*free* toast."

Primos, Pa. Just "Prime us."

Protivin, Iowa. (A Czech name.) Accent on the "pro" (properly "praw"). Rhymes with "*bought à pin*."

Pueblo, Colo. A common mistake is to start

out with "Pew!" The first syllable is "poo-eb," pushed very close together.

Puente, Calif. Rhymes pretty accurately with "twenty." It means "bridge."

Puget Sound (Washington). Here we have an emphatic "Pew!" "Puget" rhymes with the English pronunciation of *tempus fugit*—like the first two syllables of "fugitive."

Pulaski. In Indiana, Michigan, New York, and Webster, long *i* is indicated. But in several other states, and in Polish, the rhyme appears to be with "few *ask* me" or "do *ask* me"—the flatness of the *a* depending on the speaker's pretensions to cultchaw.

Punxsutawney, Pa. "Punk-soo-taw' ney." Affectionately known as "Punksey."

Puposky, Minn. Apparently to steer clear of "pup," this starts with "pew": "pew pah' skee."

Purmela, Tex. Rhymes with "her *squeal* à," as in, "When I stepped on her foot, I made her *squeal* a bit."

Puyallup, Wash. (Siwash for "Snow River.") Not "poo-ya!" but "pew-al'." Rhymes with "few gallop."

Pyrites, N. Y. The approved rhyme for the "mineral which strikes fire" is with "my *nighties*." And my information is that most people in the New York town do it that way, though some rhyme the first syllable with *beer*.

# Q

**Quaitso** (Indian tribe, Washington). Sounds like the ultra-British way of saying "Quite so"; i.e., rhymes with "*great show*."

**Quanah**, Tex. Rhymes with the last two syllables of "*Madonna*."

**Quasqueton**, Iowa. "Kwas' kwe-ton," rhyming with "*Gas anon*."

**Quay** (county, New Mexico). Unlike the word meaning "wharf," this "kway" rhymes with "hay."

**Quietus**, Mont. (Webster: "that which quiets, calms, or extinguishes life or activity.") No camouflage here; it is pronounced just like Webster's word: rhymes with "Why *cheat* us?"

**Quilcene**, Wash. "Quill seen," as in "Where was my *quill* seen last?"

**Quincy**. The colonial pronunciation, "quinzy," has been retained in Massachusetts, but nowhere else. From Florida to California, from Illinois to Washington, all other Quincys report the logical hissing *s*.

**Quitaque**, Tex. "Kit' a-kway," rhyming with "*Git away!*"

Qulin, Mo. "*Cue*, Lynn!" to rhyme with "pulín" (considered to be the favorite indoor sport of infants).

Quogue, Long Island. Rhymes with neighboring *Patchogue*. Just "kwawg."



# R

**Racine, Wis.** Properly, rhymes with "machine," but the brakeman says "*Ray* seen," as in "Has *Ray* seen my new book?"

**Rahway, N. J.** "Raw' way," not "rah."

**Rainier.** (The old dispute as to the name of the mountain has been settled by making it Mount *Tacoma* in *Rainier* National Park.) A poll of one hundred Tacoma students as to the accent in *Rainier* (on which authorities disagree) revealed that a small majority favored the last syllable: "ray-neer'."

**Raleigh.** As in Rahway, the "aw" pronunciation is preferred to the "ah," in North Carolina and neighboring states, though the British tend to say, quite flatly, "rally"—as those who saw the play, "Journey's End," may remember. It rhymes, therefore, with "Crawley," except in North Dakota, where "Polly" gets the call.

**Ramah, Colo.** (Biblical, "a high place." Near Pike's Peak.) Rhymes with "*blame à*" ("I wouldn't *blame* a fellow.")

**Ramon, N. Mex.** See RATON.

**Randado, Tex.** (In Jim Hogg County, about

thirty miles from the Mexican border.) Keeps the Mexican "dah": "ran dah' do."

**Raphine, Va.** (Derived, believe it or not, from the needle of a sewing machine.) The *a* is long, illustrating the same trend as in *Racine*. It's "ray feen'," rhyming with "stay *clean*."

**Rasar, Tenn.** "Razor" represents it.

**Raton, N. Mex.** ("Mouse.") Like *Ramon*, rhymes with *alone*. Similarly *Boca Raton, Fla.*, which means "mouth of a mouse," rhymes with "Poke à Malone."

**Raub, Ind.** German influence gone. Rhymes with "daub" ("aw").

**Rauchtown, Pa.** (This German-English combination implies that the town is smoky.) The guttural "ch" is gone and the German [*au*] (as in "out") is going. People call it "Rock-town." Maybe they would do well to change it to that; there aren't any others.

**Ravalli, Mont.** Rhymes, properly, with "à rally," but there is an unfortunate trend, among the inhabitants, toward "Ray Valley."

**Ravenna, Nebr., Ohio.** Short *e*, accented, as is to be expected from the double consonant. Rhymes with "à henna" ("a henna shade would be nice"). In contrast, *Ravena, N. Y.*, rhymes with "Galena."

**Rea, Pa.** The pronunciation is "Ray," according to the superintendent of schools, Mr. Ray Beam.

And that's enlightenment for you! The same "ray" in *Rea*, Mo., *Rhea*, Ark. and Okla., and *Rhea* County, Tenn.

**Reading, Pa.** By analogy with "heading" and "spreading," the common pronunciation of *Reading* as "red-ding" can be justified. Only Michigan thinks of it as "ree-ding."

**Readlyn, Iowa.** Rhymes with "feed bin."

**Realitos, Tex.** Every postoffice but two (Freer and Seven Sisters) in this county has a Spanish name. Yet the Spanish influence is breaking down, as seen in the present rhyme for *Realitos*: "Leah, treat us."

**Redan, Ga.** First-syllable accent. Rhymes with "we can."

**Redig, S. Dak.** Hold your nose and say "Red-ding." (No, Your Honor, no reflections whatever on your fragrant village.)

**Redoak, Va.** "Red'oak." See LAKENAN.

**Reger, Mo.** Rhymes with "meager."

**Regina** (in four states). Everywhere, soft *g*; and a rhyme for "See Dinah."

**Regnier, Okla.** At present, a French-English hash: "(Is) Ray near?"

**Rehoboth, Del., Mass., N. Mex.** All accent the *ho*. But the last *o* may be either mute or long. The Biblical name means "room" (i.e., room for everybody to prosper). There's a *Rehobeth* in Maryland which reports that it accents the "ree."

**Reiff, Calif.** German is out. This is "reef."

**Reinbeck, Iowa.** Unlike *Holstein* (q.v.), this keeps the German *ei*. Rhymes with "*fine neck*."

**Reinersville, Ohio.** Why can't we make up our minds? This "rein" rhymes with "clean"—and means "clean," by the way.

**Reinerton, Pa.** And here's a "reiner" that rhymes with "finer." *Ach du lieber!*

**Reisterstown, Md.** Here's a German *ei*. The "reis" is "rice."

**Renan, W. Va.** The cultured prefer the second-syllable accent as in French; but almost everybody says "ree' nan."

**Renick, Mo.** Quandary here. The only honest rhyme I know for "rennick" is *scenic*—and "sen-nick" is *not* the pronunciation approved by Mr. Webster. So with (or without) your kind permission:

A caterer fed "chicken" salad  
To the Y. M. H. A. out in Renick,  
Till one of them hollered "It's pork!"  
And they all rushed for home in a pennick.

**Rensselaer, N. Y.** Hard to spell—and pronunciation disputed. The R. P. I. cheers call for an accented "leer," but the dictionaries are unanimously in favor of a rhyme for *penciler* (one who pencils).

**Represa, Calif.** ("Retention or stoppage"; i.e., "dam.") The Spanish *e*'s have been lost; this is now "*repress à*," as in "repress a sigh."

**Reseda, Calif.** Here again the Spanish has lost out. Rhyme this with "We *feed* à (lot of people)."

**Rheims, N. Y.** Don't get Gallic and try to rhyme this with *pants* or *France*. It's "reemz."

**Rhodhiss, N. C.** "*Road* hiss"; i.e., the special hiss used habitually by the garter snake when crossing the road.

**Rico, Colo.** "Ree' ko," as in *Puerto Rico*.

**Riedel, Mont.** German *ie* gives us a rhyme for *needle*, though the long *i* is heard, out there, among those whose *Kultur* is defective. Hitler should do something about this.

**Riegelsville, N. J.** Again, the German *ie*. The first two syllables are truly "regal."

**Rienzi, Miss.** Though the dictionaries recommend "ree" for the first syllable of this Roman statesman's name, the local folk rhyme it with "high frenzy."

**Riesel, Tex.** Though some favor the long *i*, the growing popularity of the *Diesel* engine is more and more attracting *Riesel* into willing rhyme with it. But I confess it will also rhyme with *weasel*.

**Rieth, Oreg.** Our percentage of German *ie*'s (pronounced "ee") continues gratifyingly high. This is "wreath."

**Riffe, Wash.** Pronounced "rife" (long *i*). Can it have been a pathetic attempt to spell the German name, *Reiff* (q.v.)?

Rillito, Ariz. Only about eighty miles from the border, and still very chili-con-carne: "ree eet' o."

Rinard, Iowa. Rhymes with "wine card," an indication that it is closer to the German *Reinhardt* than to the French *Renard*.

Rio. Though Webster records no *Rio* with a long *i*, I find one in Illinois and another in Mississippi that regularly rhyme with "Ohio." Also a *Rio Creek*, Wis., that rhymes with "Ohio trick."

Rio Dell, Calif. Usually "ree' o."

Rio Frio, Tex. Both appear frequently in various combinations in the southwest, and usually rhyme with each other: "ree'o free'o."

Rio Grande (river). Say "ree-o" down there. And you will hear "grand," though a rhyme for *candy* brings you closer to the Mexican without sounding affected, and is therefore preferable.

Rio Hondo, Tex. Yes, "ree'o."

Rio Linda, Calif. Pretty far north (Sacramento County) but still "ree'o."

Rionido, Calif. North of San Francisco—but "ree'o need'o."

Rio Oso, Calif. Farthest north yet—and still "ree'o." But "strangers, unless Spanish," do use the long *i*, occasioning mild distress in Rio Oso.

Rio Vista, Calif. Still hundreds of miles from Mexico—but it's "ree'o." (This begins to sound like a pep-talk for a certain automobile.)

**Riplinger**, Wis. First-syllable accent, "Ripling" rhyming with "Kipling."

**Ripon**, Cal., Wis. As in England, it rhymes with a slovenly pronunciation of "pippin"; same vowel sounds as in *Lipton*.

**Riva**, Md. As in Italy, rhymes with "Eva."

**Rives**, Mo. Rhymes neither with "gives" nor with "dives"—but with "leaves." *Rivesville*, W. Va., the same.

**Riviera**, Fla. and Tex. Unlike its multi-syllabled ancestor overseas, this is just "revere à," as in "I can *revere* a man like that."

**Robeson**, Pa. Strangers say "ro," but most natives, associating the name with *Robinson* perhaps (just as *Robeson*, N. C., is related to *Robinson*), make it sound like an order to steal something from a girl named Sonia: "Rob a Sonia." Accent *so*.

**Rochdale**, Mass. Begins with "rotch," just as its ancestor in England does. It parallels *Rochester*.

**Roche Harbor**, Wash. (Named for an explorer.) Rhymes with "coach."

**Rochert**, Minn. Accent the "rotch" as in "Rochester."

**Rochester**, Ohio. Bolton says that the villagers make that first syllable "roach." But wait till a schoolmarm from outside gets after them. One P. T. A. meeting might turn the trick. In New York, of course, the accented syllable is "rotch."

Rochford, S. Dak. Again, "rotch."

Rociada, N. Mex. Though locked away in the hills north-east of Santa Fe, which is 350 miles from the border, this stays Mexican in sound: "ro see ah'da."

Rodeo, N. Mex. Accent the first syllable. By analogy perhaps with "radio."

Ronceverte, W. Va. Rhymes with "*Don's* a flirt," except that you should hiss the *s* sound.

Roosevelt. Most communities of this name know that "rose" is right; but "rooze" is still very common. Two of my observers, representing presumably the literati, seemed to pride themselves on saying "rooze" while confessing that most of the natives made it "rose." One town took particular pains to mention that it was named after T. R., not F. D. R.

Roseau, Minn. First-syllable accent. Rhymes with "bozo."

Rosenhayn, N. J. Rhymes with "*frozen* lane."

Roseto, Pa. While strangers tend, jocularly or not, to say "rosy toe," and Webster mentions "ro zeet' o," the natives appear to prefer "ro sett' o."

Rosholt, S. Dak., Wis. If your name were "Ross Holt," and you emphasized the *Ross*, you would feel at home in either place; but a common variation in Wisconsin is "rosh'olt," first short, second long.

Rosiere, N. Y. (Named after a French village.) "Rose-ear" (accents about equal).



Roubaix, S. Dak. Still faithful to its French descent: rhymes with "You *may*" and "toupee."

Roubidoux, Mo. Pretty Parisian still. It constitutes an ungrammatical answer to the question, "Which one of you girls does laundry?" "*Ruby* do!"

Rousseau, Ky., Mich. "Trousseau" is now usually accented on the first syllable, and so is this. Both rhyme with "Crusoe."

Routon, Tenn. This has an "out." Rhymes roughly with "shoutin'."

Rowena, S. Dak. Rhymes with "Oh *Lena*!" as in *Ivanhoe*.

Ruidosa, Tex. ("Noisy woman." The only misprint I have found in the 1937 Postal Guide made it mean "noisy man.") Right on the river. Rhymes with "Louie? *No*, suh."

Russia, Ohio. I understand that these kindly folk call it "Roo'sha." It is *not* recommended for outsiders.

Rutherford, N. J. Rhymes with "*Mother* heard."

Ruthven, Iowa. Rhymes with "(Tell the) *truth*, men."

# S

**Sabinal**, N. Mex. Has a Mexican ring to it; rhymes with "grabbin' *Al*."

**Sabine** (La. and Tex.) Rhymes with "machine."

**Sabot**, Va. Could be made to rhyme with "rabbit"; at least, that's the general idea.

**Sabula**, Iowa. The middle syllable, accented, rhymes either with "few" or "too"; about evenly divided.

**Sacandaga**, N. Y. Accented syllable is "daw" as in *Onondaga*: "sack and daw' gä."

**Sacaton**, Ariz. (Pretty well off the beaten track, up in the Sacaton Mountains near Phoenix.) Rhymes with "*Crack* à bone."

**Saco**, Maine. The traditional Down East pronunciation is "saw' co." Out in Montana, however, it's "say' co."

**Sacul**, Tex. Rhymes with "cackle."

**Saffaras**, Ind. The accent is on the "saff" (flat *a*). Rhymes with "*half* fer us" ("Half fer you and *half* fer us").

**Sagaponack**, N. Y. ("Where the ground nuts

grow big.") As in *Massaponax*, accent the "pon." Rhymes with "Gag anon, Mac."

**Sagerton, Tex.** Rhymes with "Dagger-ton."

**Saint Augustine, Fla.** The British accent on the "gus" has not taken hold in Florida; accent the "aw" and, secondarily, the "teen." There's a *San Augustine* in Texas that follows suit.

**Saint Bernard.** Accent difficulties here. I have cards from Ohio and Alabama stating that the last syllable is accented. Webster, referring again to Ohio and to Louisiana, puts the accent on the *Ber*. Evidently usage varies among the residents, probably because the Christian name Bernard, alone, is usually given the *Ber* accent.

**Saint Cloud, Minn.** Anglicize, to rhyme with "loud."

**Saint Croix, Ind., Maine, Wis.** Partially anglicized, to rhyme with "boy."

**Saint Donatus, Iowa.** Say it in English; accent "nay."

**Saint Hilaire, Minn.** Outsiders like to make it rhyme with "pillory." But "hill air" suits the home folks.

**Saint Libory, Ill.** Rhymes with "the story."

**Saint Louis, Mo.** Though the name is spelled in the French fashion, the English pronunciation, as if it were "Lewis," is greatly preferred at home. It is usually outsiders who rhyme it with "Fooie."

**Saint Maries**, Idaho. As if it were *Mary's*. Incidentally, Webster has discovered that Americans no longer use a long *a* in *Mary* or *vary* or *wary*.

**Salado**, Tex. This is three hundred miles nearly due north of the Mexican border—and shows it. Not content with substituting “lay” for the Spanish “lah” in the accented syllable, these people even start with “Say!”

**Salida**, Colo. (Over 7,000 feet high.) The Spanish “lee” is gone, but both *a*’s are still mute. A fair rhyme is “applied à,” as in “We applied a beef-steak to her eye.”

**Salina**, Kans., Okla. Rhymes with “à Dinah.”

**Salinas**, Calif. (“Salt marshes.”) Mexican influence distinguishes this from the above. Hiss the *s* of “arenas” and you have a rhyme for “Salinas.”

**Saline** (in a number of midwestern states). Like *Sabine* and *Racine*, this rhymes correctly with *machine*. But brakemen in full cry cannot be trusted with that mute *a*. (See RACINE.)

**Salineville**, Ohio. For the accented syllable, “leen” is preferred, but “line” (long *i*) is very common.

**Salkum**, Wash. Neither “talcum” nor “walk” furnishes the analogy here. The sound appears to be “*Sol* come,” as in “When will *Sol* come?”

**Saluda** (river, S. C.) The accented syllable is “loo.” (This is strictly for the information of those

announcers who, following Webster, still say "al-yoor-ing" and "sal-yoot'." )

**Salvisa, Ky.** Long *i*, accented. Rhymes with "Gal, *slice* à (piece of baloney, or whatever)."

**Samos, Mo., Va.** Much like its Greek ancestor, this rhymes pretty well with "famous."

**San Antonio, Tex. and N. Mex.** Affectionately known as "San An-tone'." And as is the case with most nicknames, residents seem a little puzzled and a little hurt when some airy stranger takes liberties with it.

**San Dieguito, Calif.** ("Saint Little-James," or call it "Jimmy.") The first two syllables are the initials "D.A." run close together. Then the rest of it, *guito*, rhymes with *mosquito*: "D.A. Gee'to" (hard *g*).

**Sandusky, Ohio.** Accent the "dusk." Rhymes with "Is the man husky?"

**San Fidel, N. Mex.** Rhymes with "We *tell*" (proud motto of the Casanova Society).

**San Francisco, Calif.** Two things you must not do in San Francisco: say "Frisco," or mention the—I mean, it was a Fire. In the words of an infuriated native, to make use of the famous nickname is "a crude, vulgar, and unwarranted familiarity." In other words, they don't care for it.

**San Jacinto, Calif., Tex.** The *j* is "j," the *c* is "s." Rhymes with "Dan's a pinto." But Nevada

reports Mexican influence—"h" for *j* (see LA JOLLA, which is less than seventy-five miles south of California's San Jacinto).

**San Joaquin, Calif.** Some puzzle fans went astray when *Joaquin Miller* appeared in the *Old Gold* contest, as they were not aware that "wah-keen'," an approximation of the Spanish, was standard.

**San Jose, Calif.** The guttural *j* of the Spanish is not used in the Western Hemisphere; just *h*. "Ho-say'," with a hiss, is preferred to the hard *z* sound.

**San Luis Obispo, Calif.** As spelled: "Lewis O-biss' po."

**San Marcos, Tex.** Not the possessive, "Marco's." The *s* is hissed. Almost "Marcus."

**San Mateo, Calif., N. Mex.** Rhymes with "à tray, Joel!"

**San Miguel, Calif., Colo.** As in introducing a lady: "(Meet) me *gel*" ("my girl," to you).

**Sano, Ky.** The report is that this is just that invaluable advice to girls, "Say *No*." But I wouldn't write any life-insurance on that second-syllable accent. Recessive Accent is at work, and any day now the slogan may become "Say no." Which is vastly inferior from an ethical point of view.

**San Pedro, Calif.** "Pee" is now preferred to the Mexican "pay."

**San Pierre, Ind.** See PIERRE.

Sanpoil (river, Washington). Rhymes with "tan oil," as in sun-bathing.

San Rafael, Calif. Rhymes with "a bell."

San Ramon, Calif. Rhymes with "alone."

Sans Souci, Mich. Emphasize the "see"; rhymes with "Nan's too free."

Santa Claus, Ind. (Once one word.) They pronounce it "Santy Claws," as we all do—except when addressing the Culture Club, of a Friday afternoon.

Santa Cruz, Ariz., Calif. The rhyme is "booze."

Santa Elena, Tex. Mexican influence has kept it rhyming with "Tell Dana."

Santa Fe. (No accent mark over the *e*, in the U. S.) Trainmen usually say "San'ta Fee" (rhyming, in "Casey Jones," with "What could they be?"), and this version is approved by the Ohio and Tennessee towns. But the better element out in New Mexico hang grimly on to "fay."

Santa Monica, Calif. Accent "mah," as in the tail end of "harmonica." *Monico*, Wis., stays in line, with "mah," but by some strange accident *Monica*, Ill., rhymes with *Topeka*.

Santaquin, Utah. (An old Indian chief.) Like "Santa Claus," only it's "Santa Quinn." You know, the Irishman.

San Ygnacio, Tex. (The only town, for fifty-one miles, between Zapata and Laredo, along the river.) Naturally quite Mexican: "eeg nah' see-o." The

name (that of Loyola) seems to have been popular with the pioneers. My highway map shows *two* (spelled *Ig-*) in New Mexico, one near Santa Rosa, the other near Albuquerque.

San Ysidro, Calif. (Saint Isidore, farmer, used to get two angels to do his ploughing for him so that he could spend more time in prayer.) Also spelled "Isidro"; pronounced "ee seed'row," to rhyme with "We *need* snow."

Sapeloe, Ga. (The island north of Darien is spelled without the concluding *e*.) Webster accents the "pee," for the island, while my observer would rhyme the town with "slap a *foe*." Maybe they'll compromise on the *sap*. In the meantime, take your choice, because usage varies.

Sapulpa, Okla. Rhymes with "à *gulp* o' (water)."

Saticoy, Calif. As in "There *sat* à coy young lady."

Satus, Wash. Suggested epitaph:—

We *were* a young couple from Satus

Who entered the marital status.

We'd spent a whole week

On Klickitat Peak

When up came a grizzly and ate us.

Saugerties, N. Y. (Dutch for "a sawyer's.") There is still a "Saw Creek" in the vicinity.) Accent on the "saw"; rhymes with "logger sees."



Saugus, Mass. Also *Sauk* Center, Minn., and *Sauk* County, Wisconsin. All "aw."

Sault Sainte Marie, Mich. The railroad name, "The Soo Line," derives of course from "Sault," and illustrates the actual pronunciation. *Sainte* is just "Saint" and *Marie* just "Marie," the girl's name ("ma-ree").

Saunemin, Ill. Rhymes with "*pawn* 'em in (a pawn shop)."

Sausalito, Calif. Rhymes quite decently with "raw mosquito." (I swallowed one, accidentally of course.)

Savage, Va. Like "Savage," "sav" rhyming with "have," for which, according to Webster, there is no rhyme.

Sawatch (mountains, Colorado). Rhymes with "à match." May be spelled *Saguache* but still pronounced as above, as if the *g* were a *w*.

Schaberg, Ark. The accented first syllable is like the one-hoss "shay."

Schaghticoke, N. Y. There's one for your spell-down. "Skatty-coke," rhyming with "*catty* joke."

Schenectady, N. Y. Most radio fans have already heard this powerful station, WGY, and know that the "sch" is as in "school," and that the name rhymes with "Ben *wrecked* a bee."

Schenevus, N. Y. Still in the Dutch sphere of

influence, so "sk." The name rhymes with "a grievous" ("a *grievous* error").

Schenley, Pa. German, not Dutch: "shen' lee."

Schleswig, Iowa. Anglicize to "sless' wig."

Schley, Ga., Minn., Va. According to Webster, the rear-admiral for whom these towns were named called himself "Sly" whereas Georgia makes it "Shly." And so does my observer, a school-teacher, in Minnesota, but he goes on to say that "sly" is the more common. Virginia insists on "sly." Anyway, all rhyme with *fly*.

Schodack Landing, N. Y. Any town in New York state that begins with *sch* is pronounced "sk." (See SCHULENBURG.) This rhymes with *Kodak* (adv't.)

Schoeneck, Pa. Back to the German area. This is "shen'nick," rhyming with "pennick" (see RENICK).

Schoharie, N. Y. Dutch country again; so "sk." Rhymes with "Go *marry*!"

Scholle, N. Mex. As if you were to say that the old lady in the bonnet and shawl was very "bonnety and *shawly*."

Schroeder. As usual, the umlaut causes trouble. In Texas this is "shray'der," rhyming with "trader"; in Minnesota it is still "sh," but it rhymes with "loader."

Schroon Lake, N. Y. Of course, "sk" (see

SCHODACK LANDING) ; and rhymes with the hilarious, if not hysterical, bird.

Schulenburg, Tex. Many Germans have settled in Texas (see HOCHHEIM). So this *Sch* is "sh," as in "Schubert."

Looking at this *Sch* problem nationally, I am going out on a limb: outside of New York state (see SCHODACK LANDING) all places beginning *Sch* are pronounced "sh" except *Schofield*, the *School* combinations, the *Schuylers*, and *Schuylkill*. Yet, turning away from *names* for the moment, "schedule" is the only thoroughly English word that starts out with "sh," ever (the British do it).

Schulter, Okla. (German word for "shoulder.") Start out with "shool," a rhyme for "pool."

Schumm, Ohio. Rev. Moeller writes that it is neither "shum" nor "scum," but "shoom"—short "oo" as in *foot* or the colloquial form of *room* and *broom*. There is evidence, however, that "shum" is gaining.

Schuylerville, N. Y. Holland Dutch. "Sky'ler" rhymes with "Tyler."

Schuylkill (Pa.) Simply "*school* kill," as the little Indians say in the spring.

Schwertner, Tex. No trace left of the German except the "sh": "shwurt'nur," rhyming with "hurt-nur" as in "Will it *hurt*, nurse?"

Scio, Oreg. "Sy-o," to rhyme with "Ohio."

**Scioto** (county, Ohio). Also *Scioto*ville, Ohio, *Scioto* Mills, Ill., and *Sciota*, Pa. In all of these, the *c* is silent and the *i* long; start with a "sigh." All rhyme about equally well with "my photo(graph)." Bear in mind that the second *o* of *Scioto* is not unlike a mute *a*—which is exactly the case in *photograph*.

**Scipio**, Okla. (Also *Scipio* Center, N. Y.) The *c* is silent as in "science" and "scissors." (In fact, as C. A. Lloyd points out in *Speak English!*, in English *c* is almost always silent after *s*.) Accent the "sip": "sippy-o."

**Scircleville**, Ind. Forget that first *s*, though "Scircle" was, they say, the name of the first settler. Just "Circleville."

**Scituate**, Mass. Blot out the *c*, as if it were *situate*. Long *a*, as in the verb.

**Scolley** (square, in Boston). Usually called "Scully."

**Scriba**, N. Y. Just "*scribe à*," as in "Describe à circle."

**Seattle**, Wash. Accent the "at." If you stress the first syllable, it usually stamps you as a non-resident or foreigner. Incidentally, there is a *Suiattle* river back in the Cascade Mountains, near 10,000-foot Glacier Peak.

**Sebago Lake**, Maine. Rhymes with "the *dago*."

**Seboeiss**, Maine. Rhymes with "free *Lois*."

**Seboyeta**, N. Mex. (*Cebolleta* is Spanish for

"tender onion.") Still Mexican-like. Rhymes with "Pray go *get à* (horse or something)."

**Seco.** ("Dry.") The long "ee" is seldom heard in the southwest. But "secko" is more common than the Spanish "say' co," on our side of the Big River. (See PECOS.)

**Sedan,** Kans., Minn., Nebr., N. Mex. Though brakemen and other outsiders sometimes accent the first syllable, the natives prefer the last. Rhyme it with "the *man*."

**Seguin,** Tex. This generally rhymes with *Keegan*, but the approved pronunciation rhymes with "the *queen*": "se-geen'." "The *queen*" hasn't a chance.

**Seigler Springs,** Calif. This is unfortunate. The name was originally, no doubt, *Siegler* or *Ziegler*, and is still pronounced "see." But when the *ie* was changed to *ei*, confusion became worse confounded. Perhaps the only solution to the problem is to spell the name, frankly, "Seegler."

**Seitz,** Ky. "Sites," rhyming with "fights." Nearly the same as it would be pronounced in Germany.

**Sejita,** Tex. Another in that very Mexican county (see REALITOS). This is "say eat'a," as in "Say; *eat à* mango some day."

**Sekiu,** Wash. Use the initials "C. Q.," accenting the first. Reminiscent of the old "C. Q. D." ("Come quick, danger").

Selz, N. Dak. The German "tz" has been lost. This is "sells," as in *Sells-Floto*.

Senath, Mo. In ordinary use, sounds much like "zenith," only you hiss instead of buzz.

Senia, N. C. "Who was that lady I *seen* ya with last night?"

Sequim, Wash. Practically a monosyllable: "squim."

Serafina, N. Mex. "Sera" is "Sarah," and "fina" rhymes with "Lena."

Sevier, Utah. (Also county in Arkansas and Tennessee.) Just "severe."

Sewanee, Tenn. The traditional "Swanee" (rhyming with "brawny") represents this fairly well; the first *e* is barely heard.

Sewaren, N. J. Accent in the middle: "See *Warren*."

Seymour, Conn., Ind., Iowa, Tex. "*See* more."

Shamokin, Pa. As Joe Penner put it, "Shamokin' in bed is sometimes dangerous." It rhymes with "awoken" (obsolete).

Shanghai, Va. First-syllable accent is wrong for China, but right for Virginia: "shang'high," as in "She asked me to shing high, sho I *shang* high."

Shaniko, Oreg. Think of "calico," only start with "shan" (as in *shanty*) instead of "cal."

Shawangunk (mountains, N. Y.) Believe it or not, rhymes with "*strong* rum": "shong'gum."

**Shawano, Wis.** The Indians made three syllables of it, accenting the first, but two are plenty to-day: "shaw' no." Pay no attention to Webster's three syllables, with an accented "waw" in the middle. I was born in the next county.

**Shawomet, R. I.** "Best usage, probably," rhymes with "*Maw*, go get."

**Sheboygan, Wis.** Though the story that a squaw remarked "she *boy* 'gain" on giving birth to a second boy must be considered apocryphal, it aptly illustrates the pronunciation. I realize that the *e* is not always as long as in "she," and that the "an" wavers between "in" and "un." (See CHEBOYGAN.)

**Shelbina, Mo.** Rhymes with "tell *Dinah*."

**Shiawassee** (county, Michigan, and street in Lansing). Accent on the "waw." Rhymes with "Fry a *saucy* (person in oil)."

**Shiocton, Wis.** Accent on the "ock." Rhymes with "Try Stockton."

**Shipshewana, Ind.** "Ship she wanna," as in this uncouth remark, "That's the ship she wanna buy." Accent "aw."

**Shively, Calif.** Rhymes with "lively."

**Shoshone, Calif., Idaho.** (Also *Shoshoni*, Wyo.) "So *bony*."

**Shushuskin** (canyon, Washington). Rhymes with what Baby would like to say when some of his

equipment comes apart and pricks him: "Boo *hoo*, pin!"

Sidell, Ill. Rhymes with "my *bell*."

Sieper, La. German *ie* (see RIETH). Rhymes with "peeper."

Sigel, Ill., Pa. (Probably from German *Siegel*, though the Civil War general also spelled it *Sigel*.) The general rhymed it with "legal," and so do the Pennsylvanians; but in Illinois it usually goes with "wriggle."

Siletz, Oreg. Accent "letz." Rhymes with "Gillette's."

Simi, Calif. As in "Come up and *see* me, sometime," most of the time.

Singac, N. J. "Sin'gack," rhyming with "*Grin*, Jack."

Sioux City, Iowa. "Sioux" and "Sault" both become "Soo" in Americanese.

Sisseton, S. Dak. Hard to live this name down; it's "sissy-tun."

Skagit (county, Washington). Discounting Webster's hard *g*, Thorp, recording usage, would rhyme this with *gadget*. *Puget* forms a sort of analogy.

Skamania (county, Washington). Just put "sk" before "a mania."

Skamokawa, Wash. Accent "mock" and mute



all the *a*'s—unless you want to rhyme it with “Rock-away.”

Skaneateles, N. Y. Rhymes with “Lanny *sat* a bus” (the *u* sound very inconspicuous, of course—see EDISTO). But, off the record, it’s “skinny atlas.” Bolton reports that a druggist there uses “Scan the atlas” as a slogan, thus emphasizing the fact that there’s “only one Skaneateles,” perish the thought.

Searcy, Ark. Rhymes with “mercy.”

Skanee, Mich. (Named for a section of Sweden.) Most people americanize it to rhyme with “Blaney.”

Skowhegan, Maine. Rhymes with “Now *Re-gan!*”

Skykomish, Wash. As spelled, with the accent on the “ko.” This “-omish” motif was apparently in almost constant use among the Indians of Washington. There’s a Mount *Skokomish*, across the Sound from *Snohomish* and the *Skykomish* river.

Sleith, W. Va. Rhymes with “wreath” and “Keith.”

Slidell, La. Lowell evidently thought of this as accented on the first syllable (see his *Mason and Slidell: A Yankee Idyl*). But the South certainly lays some stress on that “dell.” Rhyme it with “dry *well*.” (See SIDELL.)

Sligo, Colo., La. Rhymes with “*Why go?*”

Smackover, Ark. Pronounce as spelled, empha-

sizing the *smack*. But it was originally *Chemin Couvert* ("covered road").

**Snedekerville, Pa.** "Snedeker" rhymes with "*wed à cur*," as in "I will never *wed* a cur" (the emphasis in the sentence seems somehow to strike a false, if not immoral, note, but at any rate it indicates the correct accent).

**Snohomish, Wash.** (See SKYKOMISH.) Rhymes with the way Greta Garbo used to feel: "go-ho-mish." Accent on "ho."

**Snoqualmie, Wash.** Rhymes with an Indian child's request: "Show *doll* me."

**Sobieski, Wis.** (Named after a king of Poland.) In Wisconsin, "no whisky" is a good rhyme.

**Socorro, N. Mex.** (Rises stolidly out of a dusty desert; site of an old mission.) The accented syllable is "core," as in apple.

**Solano** (county, Calif.) Though this is in the San Francisco area, it keeps the Mexican vowels: "so lah' no." But, in Minnesota, *Solana* is "lay," even in the best circles.

**Soledad, Calif.** ("Lonésometown.") Starts out like "solitude" (which it means) and ends with "dad."

**Soleduc** (river, Washington). This, and *Solduc* Hot Springs, at the northwest corner of Mount Olympus park, are pronounced about alike, in two

syllables; as if Donald Duck had a Hebrew friend named "Sol."

Somesbar, Calif. This bar (nature undisclosed) was discovered, or operated, by an old gentleman named "Somes" (rhyming with "homes").

Sonoita, Ariz. Only thirty-seven miles from Nogales, on the border, this town has all the excuse in the world for being "so no eet'a." Yet the regular pronunciation rhymes with "no *boy* tà," as in "No *boy* ta-night."

Sonyea, N. Y. Looks like either an attempt to spell the Russian name *Sonia*, or the exultant exclamation of a brand-new father. The *yea* is as in cheering, but the *Son*, accented, rhymes with *Don*. When said slowly, it sounds as if it had three syllables, rhyming with "*On* me way."

Soudan, Minn. As in "Then I'll sue *Dan!*"—unless you say "siu," which I don't think you do.

Southington, Conn. (Means "south of Farmington.") The first syllable is as in "southern."

Southold, N. Y. But this is just "Old South" turned around. Emphasize the *South*.

Spadra, Ark., Calif. (This is supposed to have something to do with a broken sword—*espada* is Spanish for "sword"—and a Spaniard who ran away with an Indian maiden.) The "spad" (accented) rhymes with both "sad" and "bad."

Speidel, Ohio. (Population: 50. Named for a

pillar of the Methodist Church.) Rhymes with "Why *tell*?"

Spivak, Colo. Usually rhymes with "(Is) *she* back?"

Spokane, Wash. Rhymes with "no *fan*."

Spurger, Tex. Hard *g*. Rhymes with "Burger."

Spuyten Duyvil (N. Y.) The "uy" of "buy." Q.E.D., rhymes with "fightin' rival."

Squaxon (island, tribe, Washington). Webster rhymes this with *Klaxon*, but Thorp makes it "*squawks* an" as in "That parrot *squawks* an awful lot." An honest difference of opinion, here, as to majority usage, with the probabilities favoring the flat "ax."

Stambaugh, Mich. Observer writes: "We pronounce it 'stam-bo' while outsiders say 'Stambaugh.'" Which seems to cover all possible mispronunciations.

Stanislaus (Calif.) Derives from the Spanish name, *Estanislao*, of a river in the region. The approved pronunciation is still very close to that: "stan iss lou" (rhyming with "fan this *brow*").

Staten Island (N. Y.) Rhymes with "Manhattan." Probably does not derive from the immigrant's question, "Iss *dat* an island?" There's a *Staten* in Georgia which, unfortunately, rhymes with "Satan."

Stauffer, Oreg. Rhymes with "cough-er" (one who coughs).

Staunton. In Virginia, just like "Stanton" (flat *a*). In Illinois and Indiana, "staunt" rhymes with "daunt."

Stead, N. Mex. Rhymes with "bead."

Steger, Ill. (Chicago Heights.) German influence still, in the vowel, though the "sh" has been lost. Rhyme it with "vaguer" ("more vague").

Stehekin, Wash. Accent in the middle. Rhymes with "she *peekin'*."

Steilacoom, Wash. "Still' à-kum," rhyming with "Kill a bum."

Steinauer, Nebr. The "ee" sound of German *ie* seems to be easier to keep than the long *i* sound of German *ei* (see RIETH). Anyway, "the correct pronunciation, which is used by a few here," rhymes with "*fine* bower"—but the most common one is a rhyme for "keener." Perhaps there is reflected here the average American's enormous opposition to the long *i* sound in "either" and "neither."

Steiner, Tex. To paraphrase, slightly, a quatrain (if I may say so) sent in by my observer:—

We live in a village called *Steiner*.

We honestly wish it were *finer*.

At least, it could hardly be cleaner,

This place that is sometimes called "Steener."

Obviously, the *ei* of German *stein* is preferred.

**Stephan**, S. Dak. Supposed to be accented on the second syllable, this is usually rhymed with *deafen*. Don't be surprised if it comes to be pronounced, or even spelled, "Steven."

**Steuben**, Ind., Maine, N. Y. For no perceptible reason, all accent it like the first two syllables of "stupendous." Its German ancestor is pronounced "shtoy'ben." However, *Steubenville*, O., accents the "stoo" (and not "stiu," please).

**Stillaguamish** (river, Washington, crossed by the Pacific Highway north of Everett). Can be illustrated by this conversation, following a mild attack of seasickness: "Have you still a qualm or two?" "Well, I'm still a-*qualm*-ish." Only change the *q* sound to a *g*.

**Stirum**, N. Dak. As in "That speech will *stir* 'um up."

**Stonega**, Va. Same vowels as "Topeka." Emphasize the "knee."

**Stouchsburg**, Pa. The mystery is easily explained: this was "Stauch's burg," completely Teutonic, with the *ou* of *ouch* and the guttural *ch*. Now it is usually "Stou's burg" (the first syllable rhyming with *cows*) but a trend toward "Stouksburg" is evident. The brakeman cuts the Gordian knot with "Starch-burg."

**Stoughton**, Mass., Wis. Always "sto'tun." Why doesn't this give as much trouble as *Houghton*?

Stratham, N. H. Rhymes with *Chatham*, N. Y. (q.v.). Don't bring out the "ham." And don't rhyme the first syllable with "bath," as I am told radio announcers persist in doing.

Strauss, N. Mex., and Strausstown, Pa. Those who know some German and those who know some Spanish all rhyme these with "mouse"; and those elements constitute a safe majority. Only "Anglos" and brakemen occasionally get thrown for a rhyme with "loss."

Strieby, N. C. Rhymes with "heeby" as well as with "jeeby." (See RIETH.)

Stronach, Mich. Rhymes with "*Draw* back."

Suamico (Little and Big, Wisconsin). Starts with "swaw." Rhymes with "*Draw* the bow." (The context is supposed to inform you that this is "bo," not the "bough" of a ship. Isn't English more fun!)

Subiaco, Ark. (German-Catholic college there, of that name, which means "I surrender.") Gasoline man said "sooby ack' o," with the "oo" short as in *took*, but the president of the college writes me that the more careful speakers, not wishing to mix their English vowel-sounds with Latin, rhyme *subi* with *hubby*. I still don't know how I happened to drive through there on my way from Fort Smith to Little Rock, as I thought I was faithfully following U.S. 64, which goes, not through Subiaco, but through Van Buren; yet I certainly don't remember

seeing any of Bob Burn's amazing uncles, or even Grandpa Snazzy.

Succasunna, N. J. Accent on first and third: "suck-a-sunna."

Suisun, Calif. (Spanish spelling of an Indian village; originally had an accent mark on the *sun*.) Webster would rhyme this with "Louie *croon*" ("You should hear Louie *croon*!") but my card says that "soo soon'," rhyming with "blue *moon*," is the local pronunciation.

Sumerduck, Va. This is "summer duck," as distinguished from "winter duck." The postmark on my card from there spells it with a double *m*, too, whereas the official Postal Guide prints it at least three times with only one.

Sunol, Nebr. Taken from the word "sunola," this still accents the *o*. Rhymes with "unroll."

Svea, Minn. The upper crust likes "svee'a." But the rest of the population, more completely Swedish perhaps, call it "svay'a" as in this Jewish invitation-to-dance: "Vill you *svay* a vile with me, my dear?"

Sybial, Va. This was named for the postmaster's daughter, *Sybol*; but the Department, in its inscrutable wisdom, changed the spelling to *Sybial*. The obedient literati try to make three syllables of it, but everybody else rhymes it with "nibble" just the same.



**Sylacauga, Ala.** A common, though somewhat lowbrow, version rhymes with "Kill a froggy." The better element also accent the "caw," but end with a mute *a*.

**Sylvarena, Miss.** "Syl" is "sill," and "varena" rhymes with "arena."

**Syracuse, N. Y.** Rhymes with "sheer abuse," accent on the first syllable preferred. But the university finds it cheers better on the last. Even "Will-yums"" does this on occasion.

# T

**Tabernash, Colo.** A merger between "tabernacle" and "haberdash."

**Tabiona, Utah.** As the lady exclaimed when she found that her cat was out singing duets with the same gentleman friend every night: "(Does) Tabby *own* à (Tom-cat)?"

**Taconite, Minn.** Rhymes with "*Back* a mite!"

**Tahlequah, Okla.** Though "Sally Squaw" would rhyme with a pronunciation frequently heard, the approved version rhymes with "*Holly, Ma!*"

**Tahoe** (lake, California). The melodious "tah' ho" of the Indians (meaning, probably, "deep" and "blue") has been largely kept, and should be.

**Tahuya, Wash.** Rhymes with "(I'll) *canoe* ya." (Yes, it can be a transitive verb.)

**Taiban, N. Mex.** "Tie' ban," rhyming with "*My* man."

**Taliaferro** (Georgia). Still "Tolliver" or "Tul-liver," but may succumb to our craze for pronouncing as spelled—unless the radio saves it. Just as

WLW is protecting the "ee" on the end of *Cincinnati*.

**Talihina**, Okla. Rhymes with "Sally Lena."

**Talladega**, Ala. As in *Tallahassee*, the "tal" rhymes with "shall." The accent is on the "dee."

**Tama** (Indian reservation, Iowa). Long *a*, as in "*Tame* à tiger."

**Tamalpais** (mountain, California). The Mexican has been religiously kept; the "pais" is really two rapid syllables, "pah'-ees."

**Tamaqua**, Pa. According to Webster, this rhymes surprisingly well with *Chautauqua*. But residents prefer an emphatic "mah." And the brakeman "may sing out 'kway' as a final sonority."

**Tamassee**, S. C. Again we have an accented *a* sounded "aw." Rhymes with "à saucy (girl)."

**Tamo**, Ark. Probably connected with the Tama Indians. Anyway, the *a* is also long.

**Tampico**, Ill. Unlike its Mexican relative, which accents the "pee," this rhymes with "(To) *camp* we go!"

**Taneum** (creek, Washington, emptying into the Yakima). Though this looks as if it should be related in some way to Ahtanum and Umtanum and Umatanu Ridge, Thorp says it rhymes with "*chain* 'em."

**Taney** (Missouri). Named after a Chief Justice who pronounced it "tawny," this county has com-

pletely abandoned the "aw" for the logical long *a* (rhyme with "brainy"). A letter from *Forsyth*, while recognizing the probability that the former is correct, insists that *everybody* now uses the long *a*.

**Tangipahoa, La.** (By derivation, may have had something to do with corn-on-the-cob; but the parish is now the strawberry center of the South.) "Tan-je-pà-ho'."

**Taopi, Minn.** Some practical jokers make this two syllables, like "dopy"; another practical joker, the brakeman, puts "pie" on the end. But the more sober element rhyme it with "stay *soapy*."

**Taos, N. Mex.** Really two syllables; but to all intents and purposes rhymes with *louse* (*house* was my first choice, but then I should have had to explain that I meant the noun, not the verb).

**Tarkio, Mo.** Rhymes with "(Where did) *Parky* go?" as in an Al Jolson broadcast.

**Tatoosh, Wash.** (Island off Cape Flattery; reputed to have the heaviest rainfall in the U. S.) Tack an "sh" on "tattoo."

**Taughannock Falls** (215 foot cascade, near Ithaca, N. Y.) "Taw gan' uk," rhyming with "raw bannock," which, as everyone knows, is a Scotch pancake. It is believed by competent authorities to be the same Indian word represented by *Taconic* and, previously, by *Taghkanic*.

**Taunton, Mass.** It is hopeless for any but Down

Easters to render *Bath* or *Harvard* or *Taunton* the way the natives do. *Taunton* nearly rhymes with *Staunton*, Va. It is nearer "tahn" than "tawn."

**Tavares**, Fla. Rhymes quite adequately with "thè berries."

**Tazewell**, Va. (Also county in Illinois.) Traditionally, rhymes with *Caswell* ("as" as in *as*). But "traditionally" doesn't mean "forever" in spelling-conscious America.

**Tchoupitoulas**, La. (Also street in New Orleans.) "Chop a too'làs," rhyming with "Stop à shoe-less (person)." Professor Read delicately dismisses the "chap" pronunciation by saying that that is heard only in a section of New Orleans known as the "Irish Channel."

**Teanaway** (river, near Cle Elum, Washington). Rhymes with "she *ran* away."

**Tehachapi**, Calif. Rhymes with "the *hot*-cha tree," though I never heard of one.

**Tehama**, Calif. Emphasize the "hay." (See TEKAMAH.)

**Tehuacana**, Tex. Accent on "wock." Rhymes with "We *rock* on à (rocking-chair)." The Mexican-sounding "tay" advocated by Webster is losing out, chiefly because Mexico is so far away. *Mexia* (q.v.) is, however, Tehuacana's next-door neighbor.

**Teigen**, Mont. Rhymes with "pagan."

**Tekamah, Nebr.** Rhymes with "Be *gay*, Ma!"  
(See MEHAMA.)

**Tellico, N. C.**

A young fellow once went to Tellico  
And claimed to be Admiral Jellicoe.

A chop-suey cook

Cashed checks for this crook.

Now Ching wants to know where the hell-he-go.

**Telogia, Fla.** Rhymes with "he show' ja," as in  
"He *showed* ja how to pronounce it, didn't he?"

**Temecula, Calif.** Rhymes with "the *neck* you  
luh," as in "the neck you love to touch."

**Tenaha, Tex.** (Another spelling, Teneha, appears as a street name.) Say "Ten! Aha!" The third-syllable accent is recommended, but the first is gaining, in line with the nation-wide tendency.

**Tenino, Wash.** Pronounce the figures "10-9-0" (the last like "oh"). Accent the "9."

**Tensed, Idaho.** "*Ten* said," as in "Two men on the jury said 'Innocent,' but *ten* said 'Guilty.'"

**Teresita, Okla.** "Little Theresa" is far from Mexico, here. I regret to report that this generally rhymes with "Sarah *light* a," as in "Will Sarah *light* à (cigarette)?"

**Terre Haute, Ind., Ill.** Don't venture on "Terry Hut," even if residents assure you that it well represents the local version. Rhyme it with "wear a

coat." An almost parallel situation is found in "Skinny atlas" for *Skaneateles*.

**Thames** (river, Conn.) In Connecticut, pronounce the "th" and rhyme the thing with *James*, unless you want to be high-hat and join the British in "temz."

**Thealka**, Ky. (Card from Paintsville.) Starts out like "Theodore," and rhymes with "free *Alka* (Seltzer)." Free advt.

**The Dalles**, Oreg. (From a French word meaning gutter or trough.) Rhymes with "pals." Wisconsin spells it "dells" and pronounces it that way.

**Theilman**, Minn. Here we have sturdy Teutons; the *h* is silent, making the first syllable "tile," rhyming with "file."

**Theresa**, Wis. Authorities on the pronunciation of personal names call for "te-ree' sa" or "te-ree' za"; but Wisconsinites, and many others, rhyme it with "address a" as in "address à letter." The *h* is silent.

**Thibodaux**, La. Still quite French, even to the accent, which is slightly greater on the last syllable: "tib-o-do'," rhyming with "Fib? Oh *no!*"

**Thida**, Ark. Stress the "thigh." Think of "Ida."

**Thiensville**, Wis. German *ie*, but sound the *h* as in "thief." *Thien* sounds just like "scene" if you lisp.

**Thonotosassa, Fla.** The "th" is as in "thorn"; and the rhyme is "No *hoe*, no *massa*," explanation given by former slave for his unwillingness to work.

**Thoreau, N. Mex.** The French accent both syllables about the same. But when an American tries to do that he almost invariably stresses one or the other. In New Mexico it's always the last. Almost like "Thaw *roe*!" as the fish merchant exclaimed when he found the fish eggs had frozen solid.

**Tiburon, Calif.** ("Shark.") Across the bay from San Francisco, but still approximately Spanish. Rhymes with "cribber *known*."

**Tidioute, Pa.** ("Fair view" or "far outlook.") With pardonable pride, my observer writes: "So far as we know there is no other place in the world with this name. . . . It invariably brings a smile to the faces of those who hear it the first time, so it must be somewhat unique." Anyway, it rhymes with "Did he *shoot*?"

**Tieton** (dam, near Mount Rainier and the Rattlesnake Preserve, Washington. And why preserve rattlesnakes?) Strike a happy medium between "*tie* it on" and *Titan*.

**Tioga** (County, N. Y., Pa.) Rhymes with "my *Toga*." Bolton reports that *Tioga*, Tex., starts with "tee"; I take that with a grain of salt, inasmuch as the little town is 470 miles from Mexico.

**Tippecanoe** (river, Indiana). This became



famous in the Harrison campaign—"Tippecanoe and Tyler too." It's just "tippy canoe."

Tivis, Va. Rhymes, not quite, with "*Give us. . . .*"

Tivoli, Tex. Near the University of Chicago there was a movie palace called this, and it rhymed with "privily." But Texas rhymes it with "the foli-" as in "the foliage."

Toadlena, N. Mex. ("Flowing water," in Navajo.) "To-adda-leen," rhyming with "so sad à scene." But tourists say "toad-Lena," and why not?

Toano, Va. First-syllable accent. Rhymes with "Roanoke" if you lop off the "ke."

Tobique, Minn. Do you rhyme "oblique" with "no *peek*"? Then you have a perfect rhyme, spelling and everything, for Tobique.

Tohopekaliga (lake, Florida). Preferably, the vowel sounds and accents of "No soapy saliva." Webster's second choice ends in "lee'ga," as in "Lee'ga Nations."

Tolstoy, S. Dak. Rhymes with "*Moll's* boy."

Tomales, Calif. (Spanish corruption of an Indian word for "bay"; i.e., San Francisco bay.) In pronunciation it still resembles the Spanish: "to mah' liss," rhyming with "no *solace*." Webster has, I might say in this connection, given up the unaccented long *a* (as in "chaotic") that he used to recommend for the last syllable of *solace*, *palace*, *furnace*.

Tomato, Ark. In the words of Tin Pan Alley—"You say 'to may'to' and I say 'to mah'to.' " But Arkansas calls the whole thing off by saying "mat" (flat *a*).

Tonasket, Wash. Sounds like this ungracious answer to the question: "May I ask a favor of you?" "Tonasket."

Tonawanda, N. Y. For an accurate rhyme, put a mute *a* on the end of "Don a *blond*!"

Tooele, Utah. "To *Ella*," which might be the name of a poem. *Toole* County, Montana, is just "tool."

Topinabee, Mich. Science speaks: "The *top*, in a bee, is not so dangerous as the bottom."

Toreva, Ariz. Rhymes with "show *Eva*."

Tornillo, Tex. About a mile from the Big River—so rhymes with "for *Leo*."

Touisset, Mass. Rhymes with "You *miss* it," as in the "Hit-the-nigger-baby-and-you-get-a-five-cent-cigar" racket.

Toulon, Ill. Rhymes with "*rule* on," as in "What is the *rule* on this point?"

Toutle, Wash.

A girl there is learning to tootle

A trumpet, but really it's futile.

She blows out her cheeks

And wails, or just squeaks.

Honest, it's perfectly brutal.

**Towaco, N. J.** Rhymes with "A *socko*!" The first *o* has collapsed into a mute *a*.

**Towaoc, Colo.** Missionary Russell writes that this is Indian for "very good," and indicates that its three syllables, equally emphatic, rhyme with "Go slay hawk."

**Traer, Iowa.** Rhymes with "chair."

**Trego, Kans., Md., Mont., Wis.** All rhyme with "*We* go."

**Treichlers, Pa.** German *ei*, but not the guttural. Rhymes with "*Strike*, sirs!"

**Tremont.** Accent disputed, but chiefly in Boston. In the country at large, Webster finds the second syllable accent, but Tremont Temple in Boston starts out, usually, like *tremble*.

**Trenary, Mich.** Pretty nearly rhymes with "canary." Anyway, the accent is in the middle.

**Tres Piedras, N. Mex.** ("Three stones.") Though the village is 400 miles from the border, the pronunciation has not drifted far from the Mexican. It rhymes, after a fashion, with "Guess we *weighed* Russ." The "Pie" in the middle is sounded like the initials "P.A."

**Tres Pinos, Calif.** Again, the Spanish is pretty well kept; rhymes with "Race *Three*, close" (hissing *s*).

**Trevorton, Pa.** "Trevor" rhymes with "never."

Unfortunately, *Trevor*, Wis., commonly lines up with "beaver."

**Trezevant**, Tenn. Accent on "trezz." Rhymes with "hesitant," and (almost) with "president"—the mute *a* and the mute *e* being very similar.

**Tridell**, Utah. Rhymes with "Slidell" (q.v.) That is, with "I yell."

**Trier** (New Trier high school, Wilmette, Ill.) It rhymes with "pier" and "beer."

**Tualatin**, Oreg. "Twal' e-tin" represents satisfactorily the present-day pronunciation.

**Tucapau**, S. C. Might have been spelled "Tuck-apaw." Accent "tuck."

**Tucson**, Ariz. Rhymes with "Shoe *Don!*" as the blacksmith said when he was asked to shoe a ferocious horse named Don. Pronunciation of the *c* is a sign either of ignorance or humor. The accent, like scores of others, is receding to the first syllable.

**Tucumcari**, N. Mex. "Two come carry."

**Tukwila**, Wash. "Tuck *Willa* (into bed)." Be sure it's *Willa* and not some other girl.

**Tulalip**, Wash. Rhymes with "shoe *may* slip."

**Tulia**, Tex. Rhymes with "Julia."

**Tunica**, Miss. It seems to come fairly natural for folks in the Deep South to say "tiu"; so this rhymes with "Punic a," as in "Was *Punic* a synonym for *Carthaginian*?"

Tuolumne, Calif. (By derivation, probably something to do with "stone houses.") "Twahl'um-nee," rhyming with "*folluh* me."

Turin, Iowa. Much like "tourin'." Rhymes with "Van Buren."

Tuskegee, Ala. Hard *g* as in "geese." Rhymes with "Gus Greeley."

Tutwiler, Miss. Looks like a relative of the Indian name, *Tukwila*. But *Tutwiler* rhymes with "*nut* piler," which makes it sound German.

Twodot, Mont. Yes, "two-dot." Grace Stone Coates writes me that, the morning after a disastrous fire there had wiped out half the buildings along Main Street, the "Milwaukee" brakeman sang out, "One dot!"

Tygh Valley, Oreg.

There once was a fellow from Tygh  
Who was most infernally slygh.  
He marched off to war  
But found it a bore,  
So got himself shot as a spygh.

Tyrone, Ga. and Pa. In the old country (Ireland) it rhymed with "We're *known*!"; but at least two of its namesakes over here rhyme it with "my bone" (accents about equal).

# U

Uinta (Utah, Wyo.) Pronounced "you in'tà," as in "It gets you inta trouble."

Umapine, Oreg. (Card from Walla Walla.) The city slicker bids the farmer's daughter farewell: "You m' pine, but I shall not."

Umatilla, Oreg. Stress the "till." It's the same as "You, Matilda," with the trifling exchange of a *d* for an *l*.

Umtanum, Wash. (Is separated from *Ahtanum* by *Umatanu* Ridge.) Rhymes with "Come fan 'em!"

Unaka, N. C. Rhymes with "You *bake* à (cake)."

Uncompahgre Peak (Colorado). A good example of phonetic spelling. Accent the "pah." The last two syllables rhyme with the ordinary pronunciation of "padre" (a common nickname for an army chaplain).

Upsala, Minn. (Swedish province.) Rhymes with "cups *Al* a," as in "The doctor comes in and

cups *Al à while*" (the reference is to blood-letting, which I understand is not entirely obsolete).

Urbana, Ill. (Home of the university.) Rhymes with "burnana." I know it's terrible; but note that it exactly parallels the corruption of "nuts" into "nerts."

Utah. In spite of the *ah*, this is properly "You' taw."

Uvalde, Tex. (Home town of "Cactus Jack.") "You val' dee," to rhyme with the classical pronunciation of *neuralgia*: "nooraljee."

Uwchland, Pa. Happily, this Welsh name is so incredibly unpronounceable that nobody even tries it without getting a little coaching first. The first syllable is "uke," rhyming with an unpleasant word not unconnected with seasickness. Associate "uke-land" with Hawaii.

# V

**Vade Mecum, N. C.** My observer seems to be willing to have us use the Latin version, "Wah'day May' cum," as he writes, "I understand it is a Latin word; you should understand the pronunciation." However, the fellers a-settin' on the curbstone in front of the general store rhyme it with "Wadel Seek 'um," like the Indian's advice to the trout fisherman.

**Valatie, N. Y.** Look out for this one. Rhymes with "palatial," with the second *l* knocked off.

**Vallejo, Calif.** Not "Valley Joe." Say either "val lay'ho" or "val lay'o." One with strong Mexican leanings would put a "y" in place of the double *l*, while a Spaniard would get guttural on the *j*.

**Valois, N. Y.** (Named for a Frenchman, whose castle here burned down a few years ago.) Rhymes with "*à choice*." Evidently the French influence has vanished too.

**Valparaiso, Ind.** This rhymes with "Gal ablaze, oh!" as the small boy exclaimed when he set his sister's dress on fire. South of the Rio Grande, the "raiso" rhymes with "*Why* so?"



**Valrico, Fla.** (From the Spanish for "rich valley.") If this started with a *G* instead of a *V*, it would sound like an Italian's concise translation of Life Buoy advertisements: "Gal *reek-o*."

**Van Houten, N. Mex.** (About 6,000 feet high.) Though there were at least two more Dutchmen hereabouts, as shown by Van Bremer creek and Van Diest peak, the racial affiliations of the settlers of this section clearly varied: we find Koehler and Swastika, Raton and Meloche, Yankee, Brilliant, and Heck Canyon. The *out* of *Houten* is "out"—I mean it's in—I mean it's right, in New Mexico.

**Varina, Iowa.** This rhymes with "*à Dinah*." I wish, though, the Varinians would get together with their North Carolina cousins, who rhyme it with "arena"—why, I don't know, in "Carolina."

**Varnado, La.** Accent the last syllable, says my observer. Can this be French influence on a Spanish name? Anyway, what with radio and new concrete highways, ten years is the outside limit, in my estimation, before that last-syllable accent gets wiped out by *tornado*. The town is off the beaten track, north of Bogalusa.

**Vashon, Wash.** Only a few miles from either Seattle or Tacoma; so I prophesy that the rather fancy accent on the "shawn" will not long persist. However, for the present, it rhymes with "*à dawn*."

**Veblen, S. Dak.** Rhymes with "*deb* when," as in "she was a *deb* when I knew her."

**Verdigris** (river, Kans., Okla.—flows right by Nowata). Curiously enough, the actual pronunciation appears to be the same as that advocated by Webster for the green drug: “*vur’ de grease.*”

**Vergennes, Vt.** (Named by Ethan Allen.) “*Vur-jenz’*,” rhyming with “*her hens.*”

**Versailles, Ohio.** Just as the British do with the French original, we rhyme this with “*her pails.*”

**Veyo, Utah.** Rhymes with *Mayo*; i.e. with the initials, “A.O.,” accenting the first.

**Vienna, Ga. and Ill.** The accent remains on the “en”; but, sad to relate, these people rhyme their town with “*dye henna.*”

**Vincennes, Ind.** As with Versailles, anglicize. Rhyme “*vin-senz*” with “*in tens.*”

**Voth, Tex.** Rhymes with “both.”

**Vredenburgh, Ala.** “Vreden” rhymes with “reden,” and “burgh” is plain “burg.”

# W

Waban, Mass. Like *Waubun*, Minn., this is "waw' bun."

Wabasha (county, Minnesota). Like *Wauke-sha*, this accents the first syllable and ends with "shaw": "waw' bâ-shaw."

Wabasso, Minn. Starts out much like *Wabash*; the *basso* is like that of *basso profundo*, i.e., rhyming with *lasso* (I hate to tell you this because practically everybody, including myself, mispronounces *lasso* as "lass-oo").

Wabaseka, Ark. "Waw-ba-seek' a."

Wabeno, Wis. Though the early Indians probably accented the "waw," this now rhymes with "saw *Reno*."

Waco, Tex. Everybody agrees that the Texas city rhymes with *daggo*. But aviators have a weakness for "Wah' co" in references to the well-known cabin plane.

Wacousta, Mich. Rhymes pretty well with "canoe stâ," as in "Is my *canoe* stuck?"

Wagram, N. C. (Near Southern Pines.) This is "way" (long *a*).

**Wahkiakum** (county, Washington, at the mouth of the Columbia. Farther up the river there is a *Wahkiacus*.) Webster gives a choice, and Thorp chooses the second, a rhyme for "Ma, *try* a drum."

**Wahkon**, Minn. "Walk *on*."

**Wahpeton**, N. Dak. As in *Utah*, the "ah" is "aw." Rhymes with "*Claw* the mon!" as the Scotch caretaker said to his pet lion when the burglar entered.

**Wakarusa**, Ind. Accent on the "roo"; rhymes with "Ha, *canoe*, suh!" Affectionately shortened to "wah-ka-roos'."

**Wakita**, Okla. "Wah kee' ta," rhyming with "Juanita" (q.v.).

**Wakpala**, S. Dak. ("Beautiful creek.") The best rhyme for it appears to be "Sock *Molla*!"

**Walla Walla**, Wash. Not necessarily accented heavily on the first "waw." Emphasize equally both halves of the famous "Echo City." Note also that *Wallula* and *Wallowa* are nearby, indicating that those particular Indians were great fellows for saying "Waw!"

**Waltham**, Mass. Britishers think of this and of *Grantham* as *Walt Ham* and *Grant Ham*. But Americans say "Wall'thumb" (remembering, perhaps, the lazy hitchhiker who painted a large thumb on the wall behind him); or—particularly in Massachusetts—a clear "tham," rhyming with "Sam."

Wamego, Kans. Usually rhymes with "Aw, *we* go," though the "aw" may be shortened to "ah."

Wamesit, Mass. The rhyme is with "*Thaw* the Flit!"

Wamic, Oreg. Rhymes with "comic." But I think Nasty Peak, Clackamas Meadows, Pinhead Butte, and Bakeoven Creek are funnier.

Wantagh, N. Y. As in "*I want* all," with the *l*'s knocked off.

Wapakoneta, Ohio. The approved pronunciation ends in "etta," as if there were two *t*'s. Rhymes with "Papa go *get* à (hair-brush, or other weapon)."

Wapato, Wash. Accent on the "wah." Rhymes with "*Chop* à toe."

Wappingers Falls, N. Y. Stress the "wop." The *g* is soft as in "passengers."

Wareham, Mass. Most of us suppose this is as in "Does she *wear* 'em?" But the fact is that locally the "ham" is important. (See WALTHAM.)

Warwick. "Warrick" is heard in New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Virginia, but is fighting a losing battle. In most of the other states and even in Canada, where one might expect the squashed form favored by the British, a full "Warwick" is regular.

Wasatch, Utah. Not a bad rhyme for "*cross* patch." First-syllable accent is preferred.

Waseca, Minn. (According to H. R. Hamilton, "Watseca" was the name traditionally given to "the most accomplished maiden of the tribe.") There's music in this name, and yearning too: "waw seek' à."

Washoe, Mont. Nothing to do with footwear. This is "waw' sho."

Washougal, Wash. Accent on the "oo"; rhymes with "Ah, frugal."

Washtenaw (county, Michigan). Have you heard the expression, "bathed in awe?" Well, this is "*washed* in awe."

Washtucna, Wash. (All these "washes" remind me of my "Waw" theory—see WALLA WALLA.) Accent the "tuck."

Wataga, Ill. Rhymes with "agog a," as in "I was all *agog* à while." A similar name, found in North Carolina and Tennessee, is *Watauga*, with an accented "taw" in the middle.

Watervliet, N. Y. The Dutch word *vliet*, meaning "creek," rhymes with "fleet."

Waubun, Minn. (Chippewa word for "that light which is just before the rising of the sun.") This is "Waw'bun," whereas *Waupun*, Wis., rhymes with "Maw won!"

Waukegan, Ill. Unlike the following name, this accents the "kee"; rhymes with "saw Regan."

Waukesha, Wis. I have heard this mispro-

nounced twice within fifteen minutes, by newscasters. You can't get any help from *Waukegan* or *Kenosha*; this ends in "shaw," the whole thing rhyming with "*Hawk* a saw."

Wausau, Wis. Rhymes with "*Maw* saw."

Wawina, Minn. Rhymes with "Ah, *Lena*!"

Waxahachie, Tex. Though hundreds of miles above Spanish influence, these people start out with "wah" (from association with cowboys?) rather than "wax." The whole thing is a pretty close rhyme for "box o' scratchy (matches)."

Wayzata, Minn. "Wise Etta" is said to be generally accepted, but as "there is some argument concerning this," we wonder if it does not rhyme just as commonly with "Gaze *at à* (person)." In any case, accept our word for it that the dispute has not yet been settled.

Weaubleau, Mo. Still half French; rhymes with a tennis cry, "Lob low!" (equal accents).

Weber, Utah. The authorities say "Wee' ber."

Wedowee, Ala. ("Falling Waters.") Accent in the middle. Rhymes with "see Howie" (short for "Howard").

Weehawken, N. J. (May mean "end of Palisades" or "Maize Land.") Probably better to accent the "haw."

Weimar, Tex. Bolton says this is "wee'mer," rhyming with "steamer."

Weippe, Idaho. Accepting Bolton again: this rhymes with "free *tripe*."

Weir. In Kansas, Texas, and West Virginia (*Weirton*), think of "weird"; i.e., rhymes with "here." But in Mississippi the rhyme is "their."

Wellesley, Mass. Only two syllables: "*Well's* lee."

Wellpinit, Wash. Rhymes with "*help* in it," as in "My arithmetic's too hard—I need *help* in it."

Wenasoga, Miss. My observer says this starts with "Winnie"; but discreet outsiders will stick closer to the spelling, and rhyme the name with "henna toga."

Wenatchee, Wash. Rhymes with "the *scratchy* (pen)."

Wequetonsing, Mich. "Weak tonsils" is heard, but is, I believe, erroneous. Make "we-que" two syllables, and rhyme the whole thing with "meekly *dahncing*" (for the information of those who do not understand the quaint Boston dialect, this is their word for what I have humorously nicknamed "tripping the light fantastic").

Weslaco, Tex. Not Spanish, though it's only a rifle shot from Mexico. Rhymes with the fine Christian maxim, "*Bless à foe*."

Westmoreland, N. H. As in *Newfoundland*, the accent possibilities here are almost too numerous to mention. Bolton says that New Hampshire



stresses "west" and "land"; Webster emphasizes "more" in Pennsylvania, "west" in Virginia.

**Weyauwega, Wis.** Accent on the next-to-the-last syllable ("wee"). The name rhymes with "I saw Leega" as in "I saw League o' Nations, but that's all the good it did," in the words of the old Ethiopian-Chinese proverb.

**Weyerhauser, Wis.** (Lumber family.) Rhymes with "hire browser," shrewd advice to *Ye Booke Shoppe Proppe* when business is slow.

**Weymouth, Mass.** As in *Plymouth*, the "mouth" gets slightly stepped on. Rhyme this with *Amos*, if you lisp.

**Whalley.** (Avenue in New Haven.) This "Regicide Judge" rhymed his name with *daily*. It still does. (See GOFFE.)

**Wibaux, Mont.** "Wee' bo" around home; "Wy' box" by strangers.

**Wichita (Kansas and Texas).** "Witch' it-aw"—the "aw" drawled out as in "Omaha."

**Wicomico (Maryland).** "Wy-comico," as in "comical," except for the final long *o*. "Non-Eastern-Shoremen," writes my observer, "have great trouble with it." Yet they hang the name around the neck of a hotel in Salisbury, and put up a huge billboard about it on U.S. 13.

**Wiconisco, Pa.** Accent on "niss"; same vowel sounds as "Chipso Crisco" (advt.).

Widener, Ark. (Apparently named after the philanthropist, whose name was, in the original German, Weidner.) Rhymes with "*Hide*, sir."

Wilawana, Pa. (Observer says this is supposed to be Indian for "riley water.") Pronounced as if little Willa were hungry: "Willa *wanna* piece of cake!"

Wilhelmina, Mo. Rhymes with "Bill, tell *Lena*." However, *Willamina*, Oreg., rhymes, somewhat more ferociously, with "Kill a Dinah."

Willamette (river, Oregon). Seeing a body of water in the distance, Meriwether Lewis, of the well-known exploring firm, Lewis & Clark, said to William Clark, "Will, *am* it a river?" Made-to-order or not, it's an excellent way to remember that the accent is on the *am*. Unfortunately the obscure *a* called for by the story is not authorized. Just "Will, *am* it River."

Willapa, Wash. Pronounced as in "*Will* à pa continue to support his son after graduation?"

Winder, Ga. Nothing to do with windows. Rhymes with "binder" and "grinder."

Winegar, Wis. "Wy' nig-er," as if *vinegar* were spelled with a *w* and pronounced with a long *i*. But there is no connection with *vinegar*. The source of the name was almost certainly German *Weininger* (related to that of the well-loved trouper, Winninger).

**Winnebago** (lake, Wisconsin). Rhymes with "Skin a *dago*," highly reprehensible motto of an ancient Ethiopian tribe.

**Winnepesaukee** (lake, New Hampshire). Has also been spelled *Winipisiogee*. The accents are on "win" and "sauk." Rhymes with "Pin up à *squawky* (infant)."

**Winona**, Minn. Whether or not the brakeman rhymes it with "my crony," it is one of the most musical names in America—when rhymed with "twin *own* à," as in "Does your twin *own* a car?"

**Withe.** See HICKORY WITHE.

**Woburn**, Mass. The old "woo," still correct in England according to the BBC booklet, may be heard also in New England. But "woo" is being largely succeeded by "woe."

**Wollaston**, Mass. Starts out with "Wallace," now, but fifty years ago it was "wool'stun," which represents fairly well the present-day pronunciation of a "Wollaston" in Canada.

**Worcester**, Mass., and **Wooster**, Ohio. Pronounced about the same: two syllables, the first rhyming with "puss" rather than with "loose."

**Wyandotte**, Kans., Mich. (Also *Wyandot* County, Ohio.) May be thought of as three syllables, but usually just rhymes with "*fne* spot."

**Wykagyl** (golf course, near New York City). Charles E. Funk rhymes this with "*Strike* a pill."

(The *g* is hard.) Another wildly-named golf course is *Wyantenuck*, in the southern Berkshires. It rhymes, roughly, with "I *ran* amuck."

Wynona, Okla. Unlike *Winona*, this accents the first syllable, rhyming it with "my."

Wyoming. Various authorities allow a first-syllable accent, but it's not heard out in the Rockies. Nor is it approved in Pennsylvania.

When you're tired of roaming  
Settle in Wyoming  
(adv.)

# X

Xenia, Ohio. "Zee' neea," rhyming with the last few syllables of "gardenia."

# Y

Yachats, Oreg. This sounds like "yachts" in two syllables: "yah' hots."

Yacolt, Wash. Accent the "Yack"—about the way a Swede would say "*Jack* Holt."

Yakima, Wash. Rhymes with "*back* o' mā," as in "I landed on the back o' ma head."

Yalaha, Fla. Accent in the middle. Rhymes with "*à rah* rah."

Yallo Bally (mountains, California). Kroeber says that this name comes from Indian words meaning "spirit of the snow." Sounds more like "the spirit of cowardice" to me, but don't pay any attention to that.

Yalobusha (county, Mississippi). "Yalo" rhymes with "shallow," and the accented "bush" is, in short, "bush."

Yaquina, Oreg. (A Sititz Indian name.) Don't confuse this with *Yakima*. The Oregon town accents the "Quinn." The two *a*'s are not particularly distinguished.

**Yavapai** (county, Arizona). Rhymes with "*Have* a pie!" There's a Yavapai Point at the Grand Canyon, close to the Fred Harvey hotel.

**Yazoo** (river, Mississippi). The accent is not where you expect it; the name rhymes with "*razz* you."

**Ydalpom**, Calif. This is "wy dal' pom," rhyming with "my Malcolm."

**Yerba Buena** (island, California, also known as Goat Island.) Still pronounced along *mañana muchacha* lines: "yair'bà bway'nà," rhyming with "Where's a Dana?" (i.e., someone of that name).

**Yoakum**, Tex. Rhymes with "hokum."

**Yonges Island**, S. C. (Near Charleston.) Pronounced exactly like "Young's."

**Yosemite** (Calif.) Rhymes equally well with "Oh *Lem*, agree!" and "No memory." The unaccented *i* is, in ordinary speech, almost indistinguishable from the *a* of "agree" and the *o* of "memory."

**Youghiogeny** (river, W. Va., Md., Pa.) The "gheny" is the same as in "Allegheny." The whole thing rhymes with "Doc O'Blaney"!

**Ypsilanti**, Mich. Accent on the "lant"; would rhyme with "It's a panty" if so singular an expression could be allowed.

**Yreka**, Calif. (This is the place where, it is said, an ingenious sign reads "y-r-e-k-a-B-a-k-e-r-y.") The

y is pronounced just as in the alphabet, and the "reek" emphasized: "wy reek' à."

Ysleta, Tex. Like *Isleta*, N. Mex., this rhymes with "Miss Etta"; accent the "let." (My authority is the editor of an El Paso daily. He told me, by the way, that Indians of the same tribe founded both settlements, having been driven, in fact, from one location to the other.)

# Z

**Zapata** (county, Texas). Spread right along the Rio Grande; so, "så pah' tâ."

**Zavalla**, Tex. Surrounded by such Castilian names as Lufkin, Broaddus, Jasper, Diboll, and Apple Springs, this Mexican creation has stayed pretty faithful. "Så vah' là" is about where it stands at the moment. Far to the southwest, there is a *Zavala* (one *l*) County, pronounced the same.

**Zeigler**, Ill. As this may have been "Ziegler" originally (there's a *Zieglerville* in Pennsylvania), the "eye" people and the "ee" people have compromised by starting with "zig" as in "zig-zag."

**Ziebach**, S. Dak. According to Webster, the German "ee" has been kept, but the guttural "ch" sunk completely: "zee' bah."



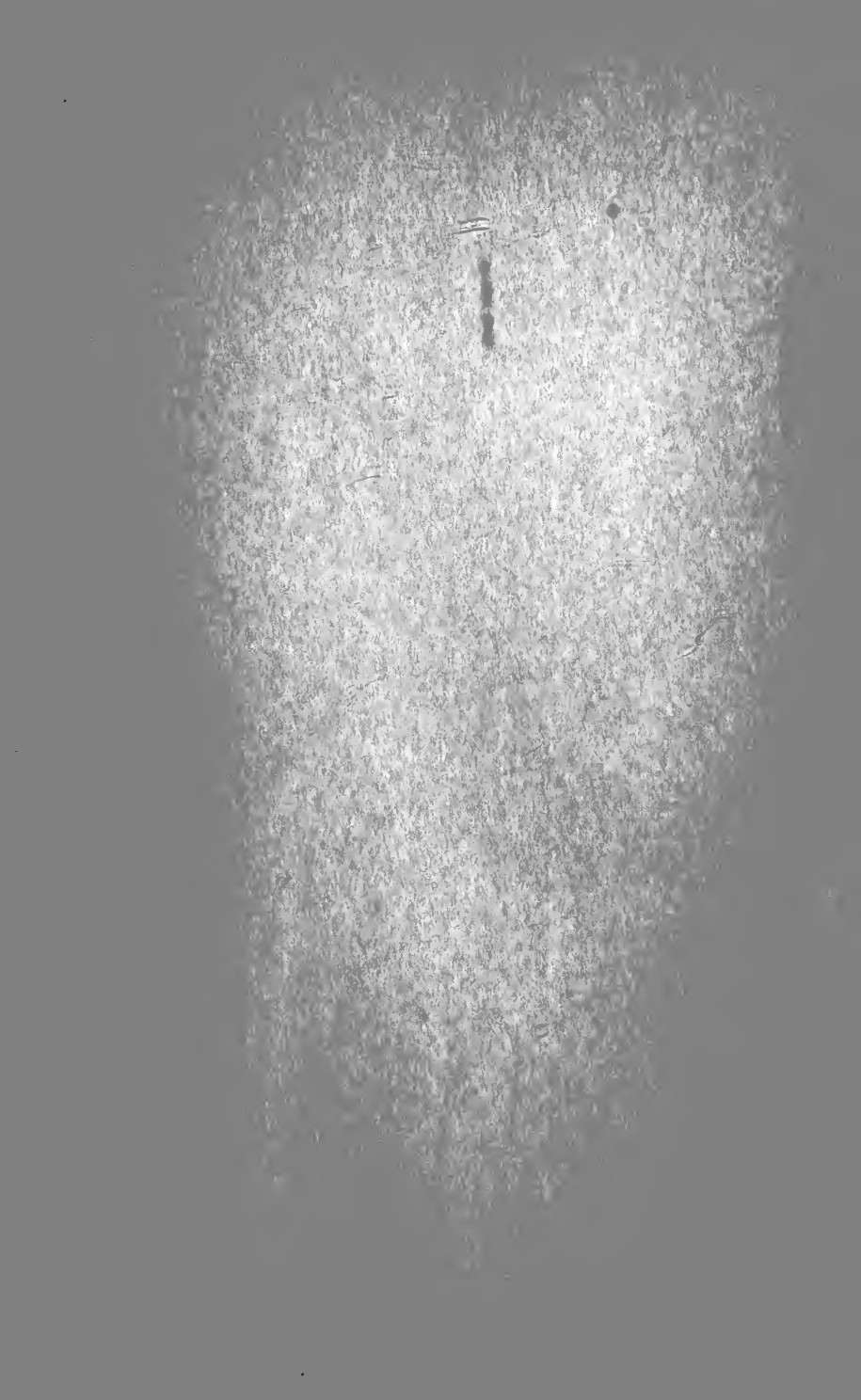
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